

SIRENS OF THE NORSE SEA

GIHEF, MITRIC, PASTORE
PERIFANO, TRIFOGLI
& BARDIAUX-VAIENTE

THE WITCH OF THE SOUTH



HUMANOID



SOGNEFJORD

NOREEGR

TYRIFJORD

KATTEGLÄND

TROLL
VILLAGE

SVEA

NORTH
SEA

SKAGERRAK

KATTEGAT



PALACE OF
AEGIR



NEWT CAVE

DENMORK

BALTIC SEA

EAST FRANCIA

GIHEF
WRITER

MARIE BARDIAUX-VAÏENTE
ORIGINAL STORY

LIVIA PASTORE
ARTIST

LIVIA PASTORE
COVER ARTIST

JOSEP HOMS
TITLE PAGE

BRUNO PRADELLE
COLOR ARTIST

JONATHAN STEVENSON
LETTERER

•

MARK BENCE
TRANSLATOR

•

JONATHAN STEVENSON
ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDITION EDITOR

SANDY TANAKA
DESIGNER

JERRY FRISSEN
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR

MARK WAID
PUBLISHER



RIGHTS AND LICENSING - licensing@humanoids.com
PRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA - pr@humanoids.com

SIRENS OF THE NORSE SEA: DEATH AND THE EXILE. First Printing. This book is a publication of Humanoids, Inc. 8033 Sunset Blvd. #628, Los Angeles, CA 90046. Copyright Humanoids, Inc., Los Angeles (USA). All rights reserved. Humanoids® and the Humanoids logo are registered trademarks of Humanoids, Inc. in the U.S. and other countries.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2020946706

The story and characters presented in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to events or persons living or dead are purely coincidental. No portion of this book may be reproduced by any means without the express written consent of the copyright holder except for artwork used for review purposes. Printed in Latvia.



THE WITCH OF THE SOUTH



SEVILLE, FORMER CAPITAL
OF AL-ANDALUS, 844 A.D.

WE'VE BEEN MOORED HERE FOR
THIRTEEN DAYS, BJARNOLFR.
THE SARACENS ARE CLOSING IN,
AND WE'RE OUTNUMBERED. WE
NEED TO GET AWAY, BY ODIN!

WHO CARES ABOUT THOSE
COWARDS, GORM?! I'M NOT
LEAVING THIS PLACE WITHOUT
A GIFT FIT FOR OUR KING.

THEN HE'LL HAVE
TO LET ME MARRY
HIS DAUGHTER.

WHAT IF IT'S A TRAP? YOU CAN'T RELY ON THE WORDS
OF AN OLD MAN WHOSE FAMILY YOU THREATENED TO KILL!

HE WAS PROBABLY LYING
THROUGH HIS TEETH SO
YOU'D LET THEM LIVE.

YOU MAY BE RIGHT,
COMRADE. BUT IN ANY
CASE, WE'LL FIND OUT
SOON ENOUGH.

HERE!

ANY MORE TALKING, GORM,
AND I'LL MAKE SURE YOU
GET THERE FIRST. NOW
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!

I REFUSE TO DIE
HERE. THE JOURNEY
TO REACH VALHALLA
IS FAR TOO LONG--

IT... IT HERE,
IS PROMISE!

IF HE'S LYING, I'LL
PULL HIS TEETH OUT
AND GET HIM TO MAKE
ME A NECKLACE!



M-MAY MJLNIIR
STRIKE ME DOWN!



GORM, HAVE THE MEN
GET THIS CREATURE
ABOARD THE LONGSHIP!
WE WEIGH ANCHOR
BEFORE DAWN.

NO! NO TAKE! EZEELAMIRI
IS DEMON! WILL DRIVE ALL
YOUR MEN TO MADNESS!



E-EZEELAMIRI? IS THAT
THE NAME OF THIS...
THING? I... I DON'T
KNOW, BJRNOLFR.
MAYBE WE OUGHT TO
LISTEN TO THE OLD MAN
AFTER ALL AND NOT--



SKRRRRRING!

BJRNOLFR?

WHAT ARE
YOU... ?!



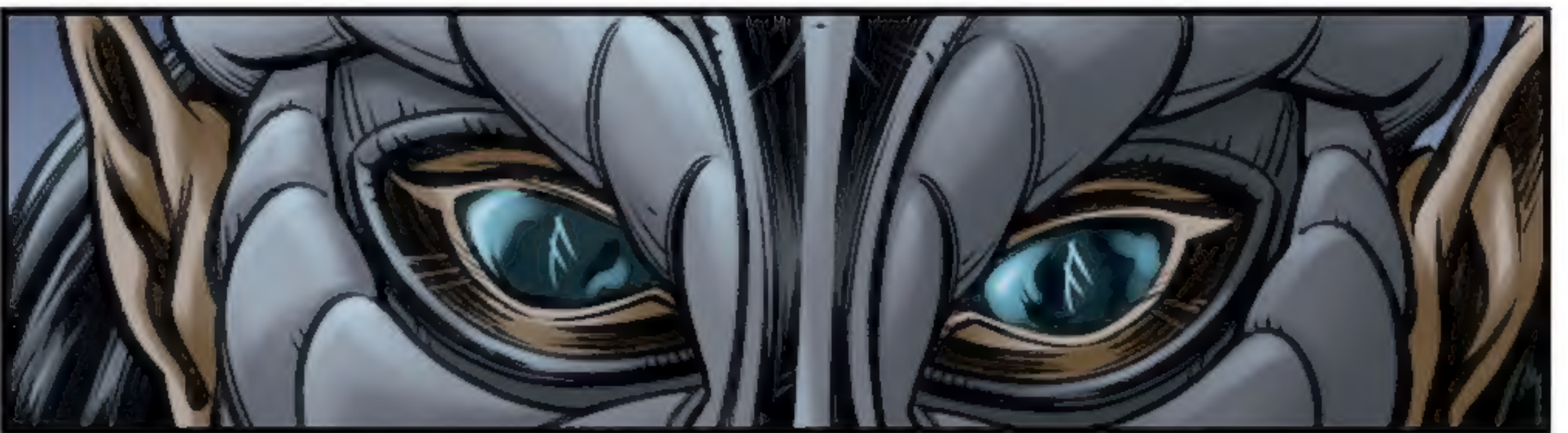
URK!



I SAID: GET
THIS CREATURE
ABOARD THE SHIP.



THE NORTH SEA,
FOUR DAYS LATER...



GORM?



I DON'T WANT A SINGLE
MAN TO TAKE THEIR EYES OFF
THE HORIZON TILL THEY SPOT
LAND. IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?

YES, BUT THE SEAS
ARE ROUGH... PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD--



DO AS I SAY, AND NEVER
DARE TO QUESTION MY
ORDERS AGAIN OR I'LL
TOSS YOU TO THE SHARKS!

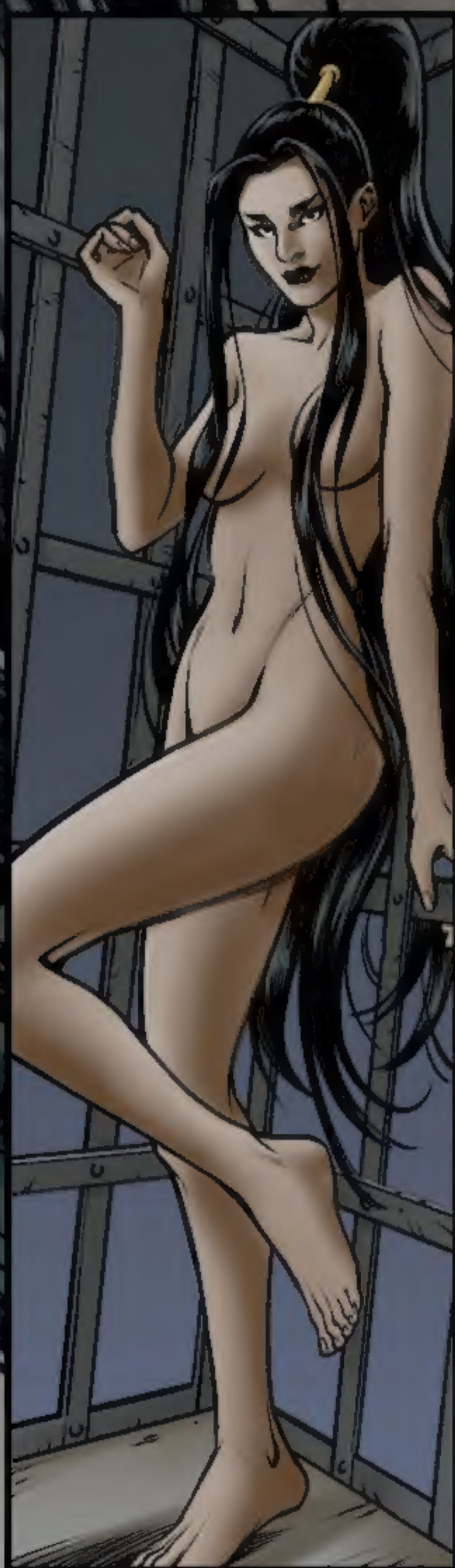
I... AYE,
CAPTAIN!



NOW, LET'S HAVE
A LOOK AT WHAT'S
UNDER THAT HELMET...



B-BY
THE BLOOD
OF LOKI!



YOUR BEAUTY
WOULD MAKE
FREYJA HERSELF
JEALOUS!

COME TO ME,
EASTERN
PRINCESS.



LET ME TASTE
YOUR LIPS.

BRAA O O O M M M M

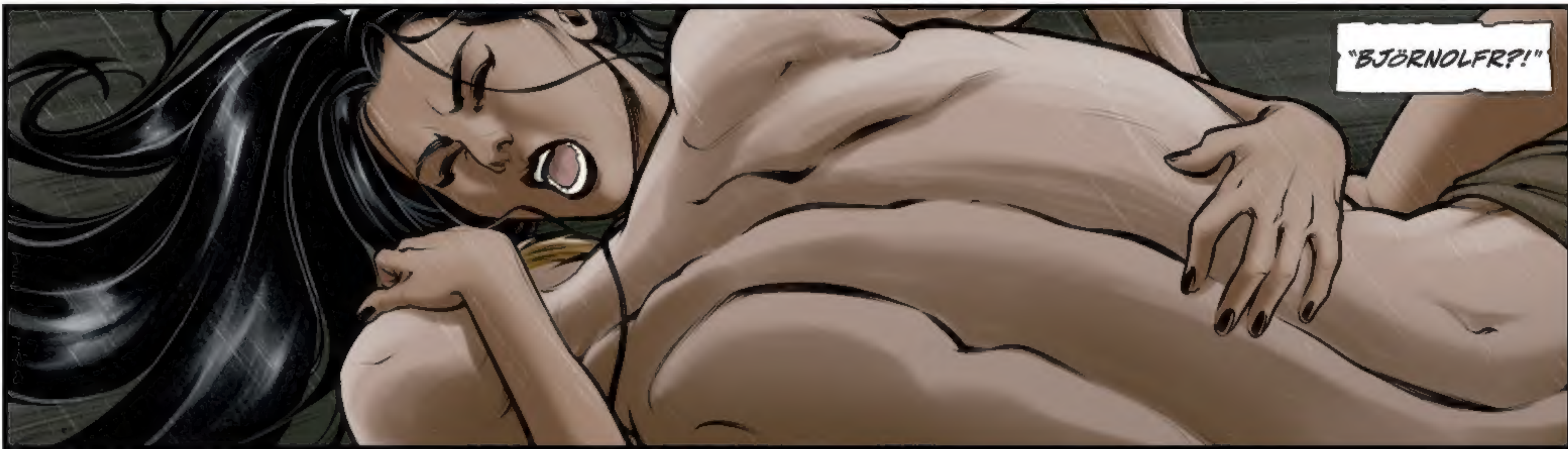




"WE'RE CAPSIZING!"

"BY ODIN, GET US UPRIGHT!"

"BJÖRNOLFR?"



"BJÖRNOLFR?!"



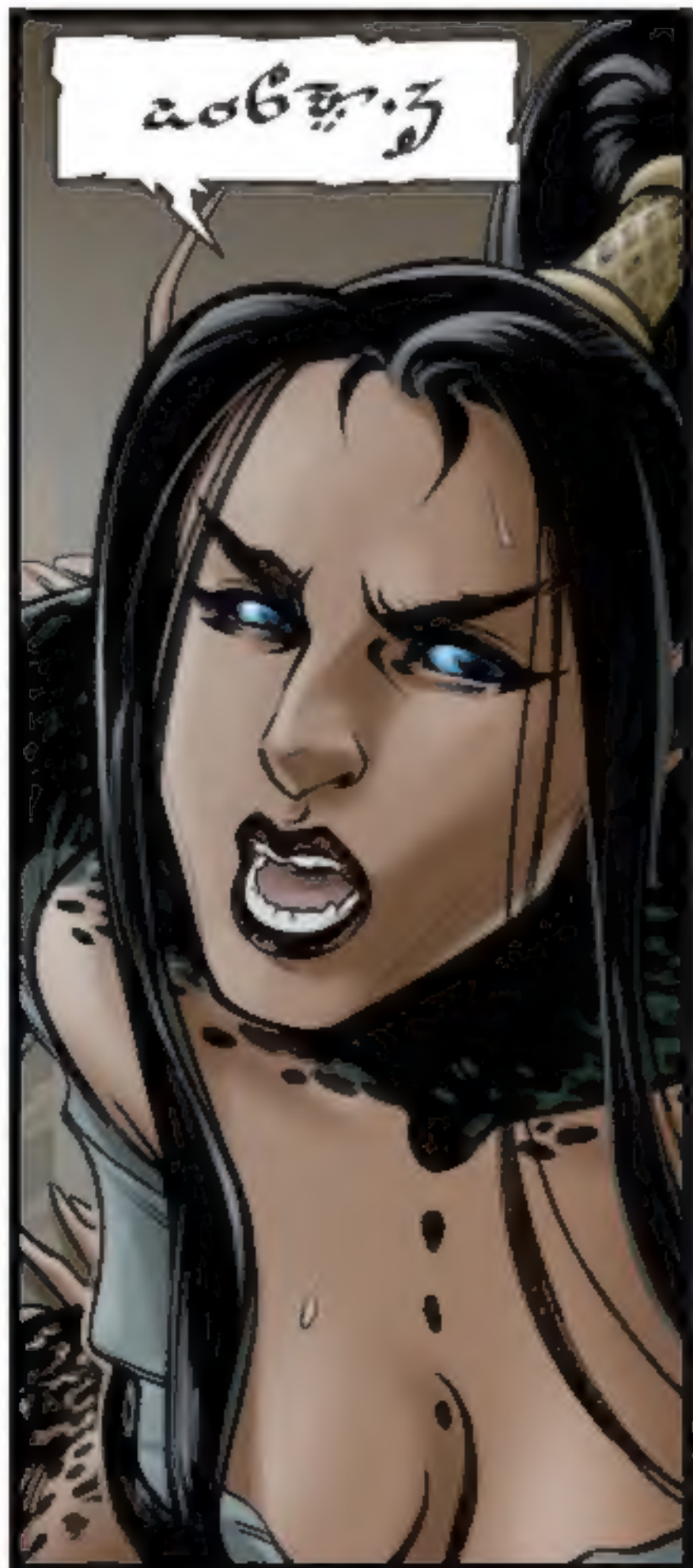
WHAT IN THE... ?!



SHE-DEVIL!



SSSSHHHH!



аобѣ.з

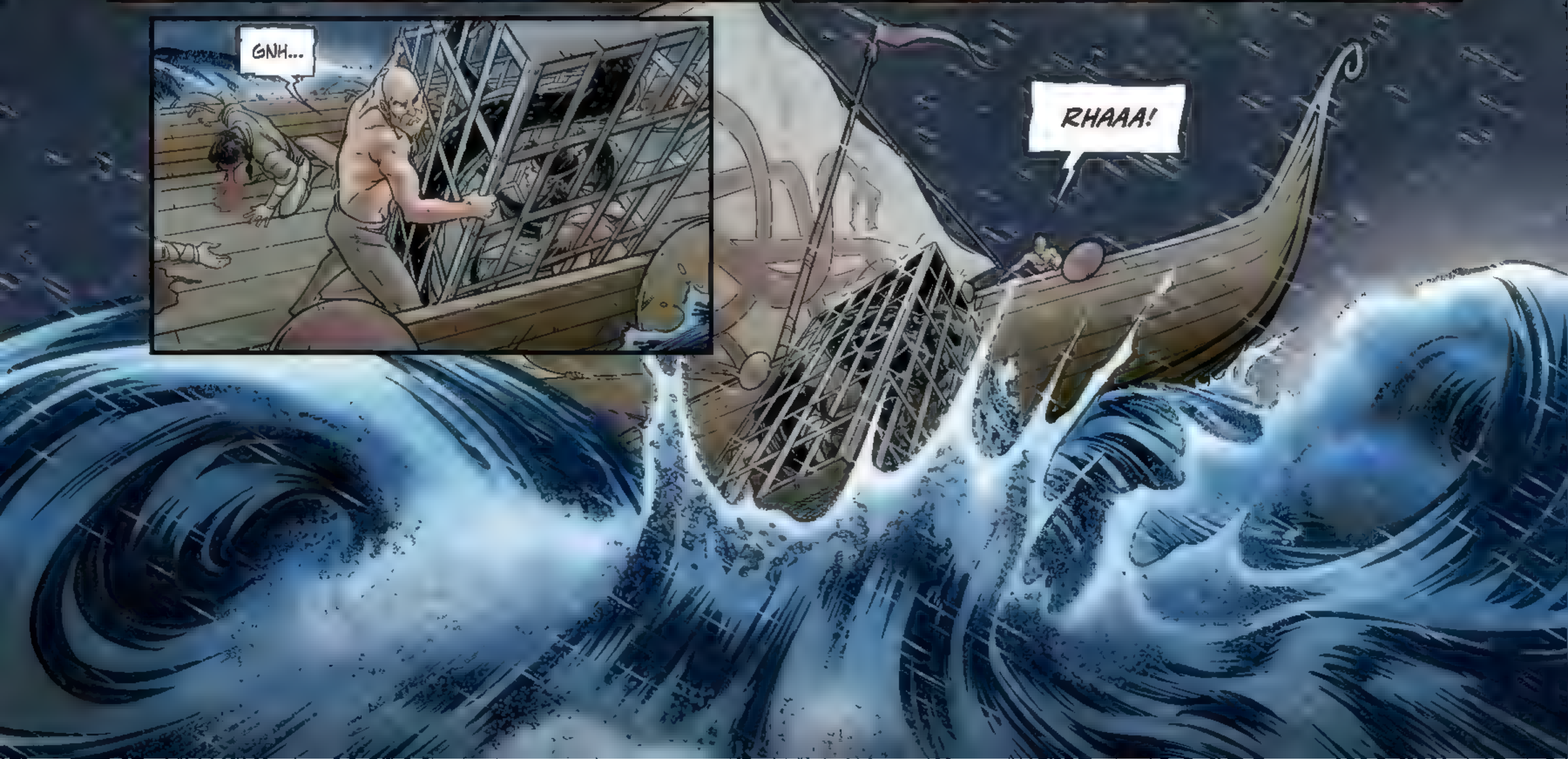
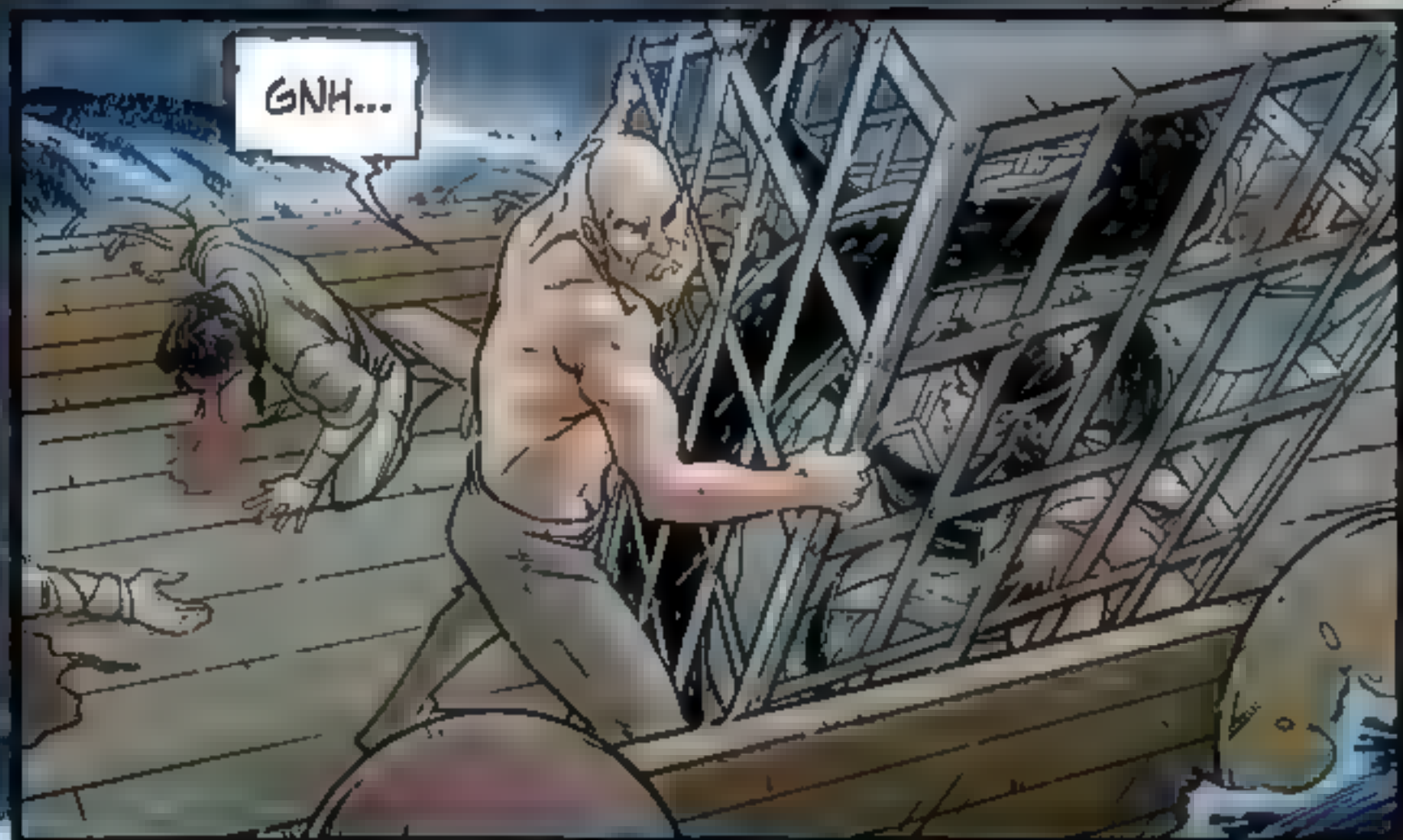
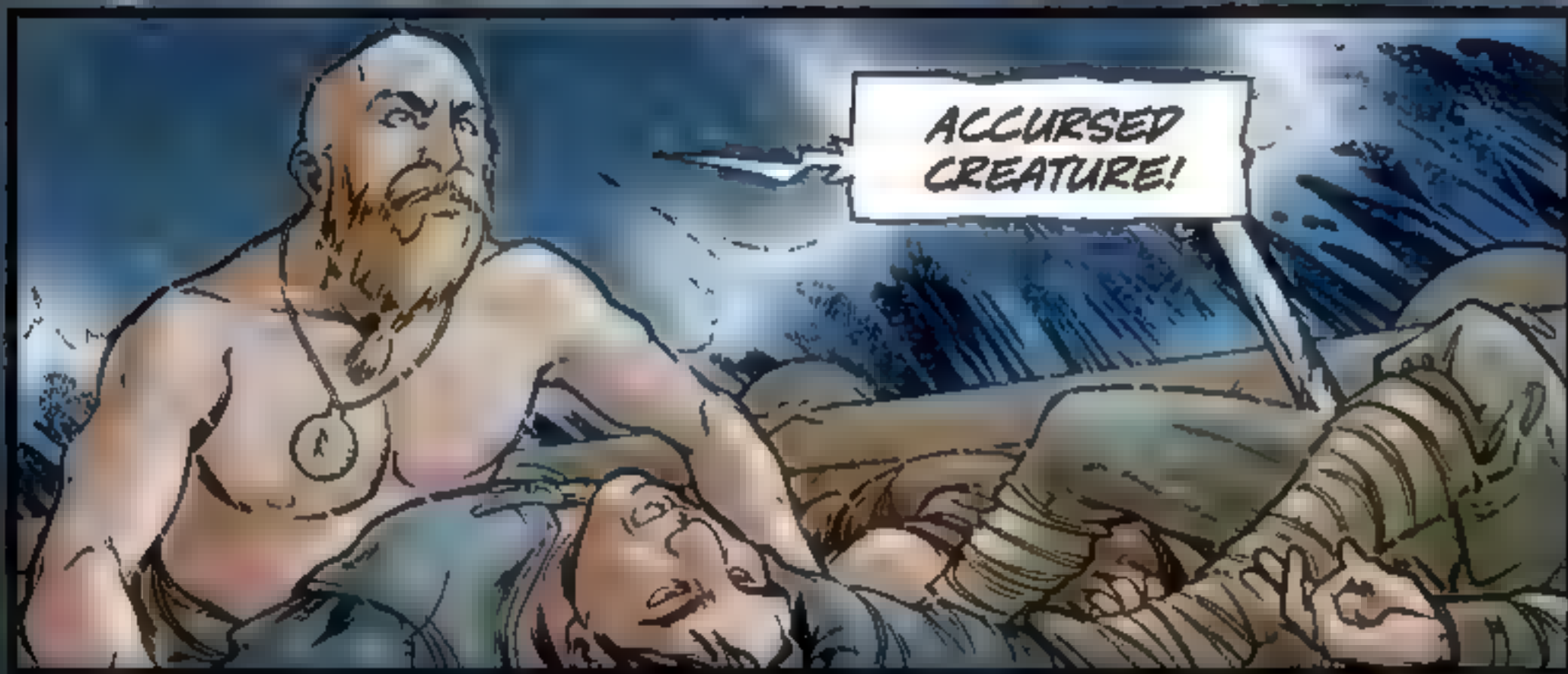
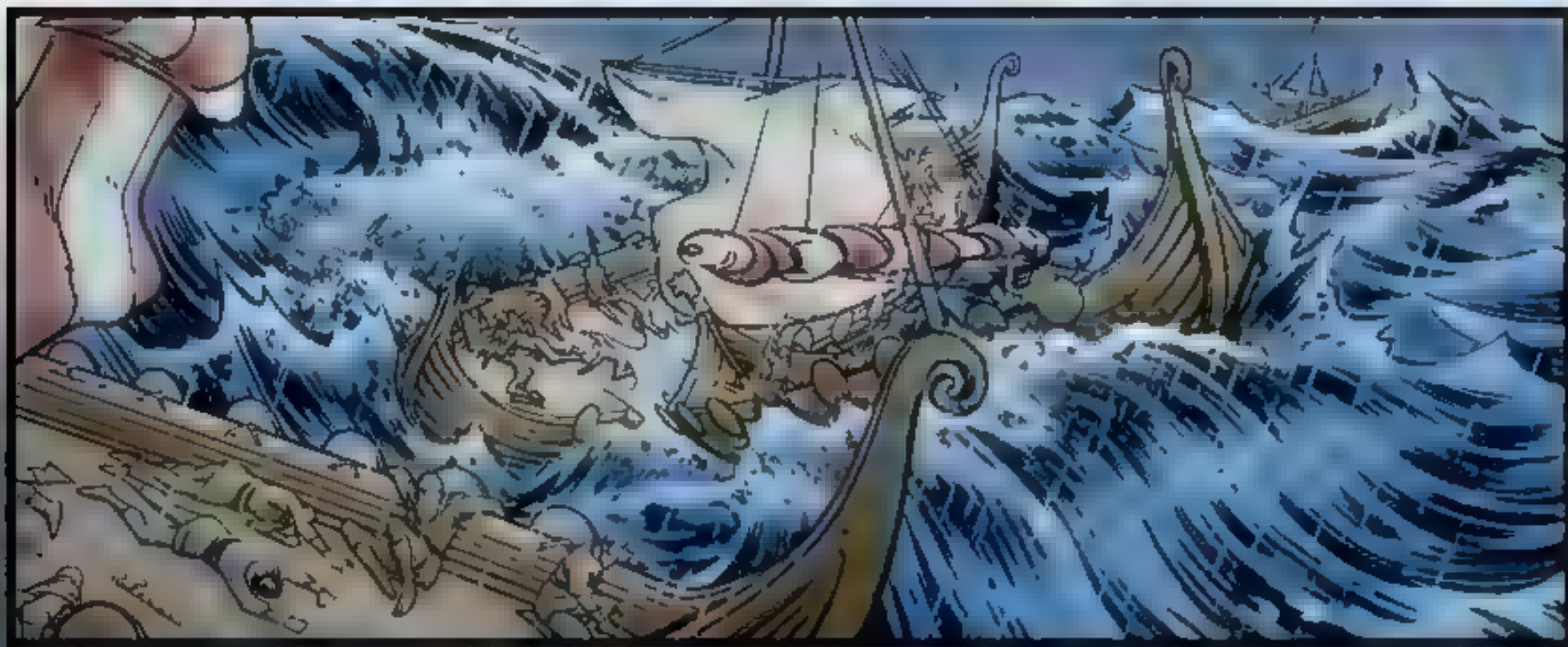
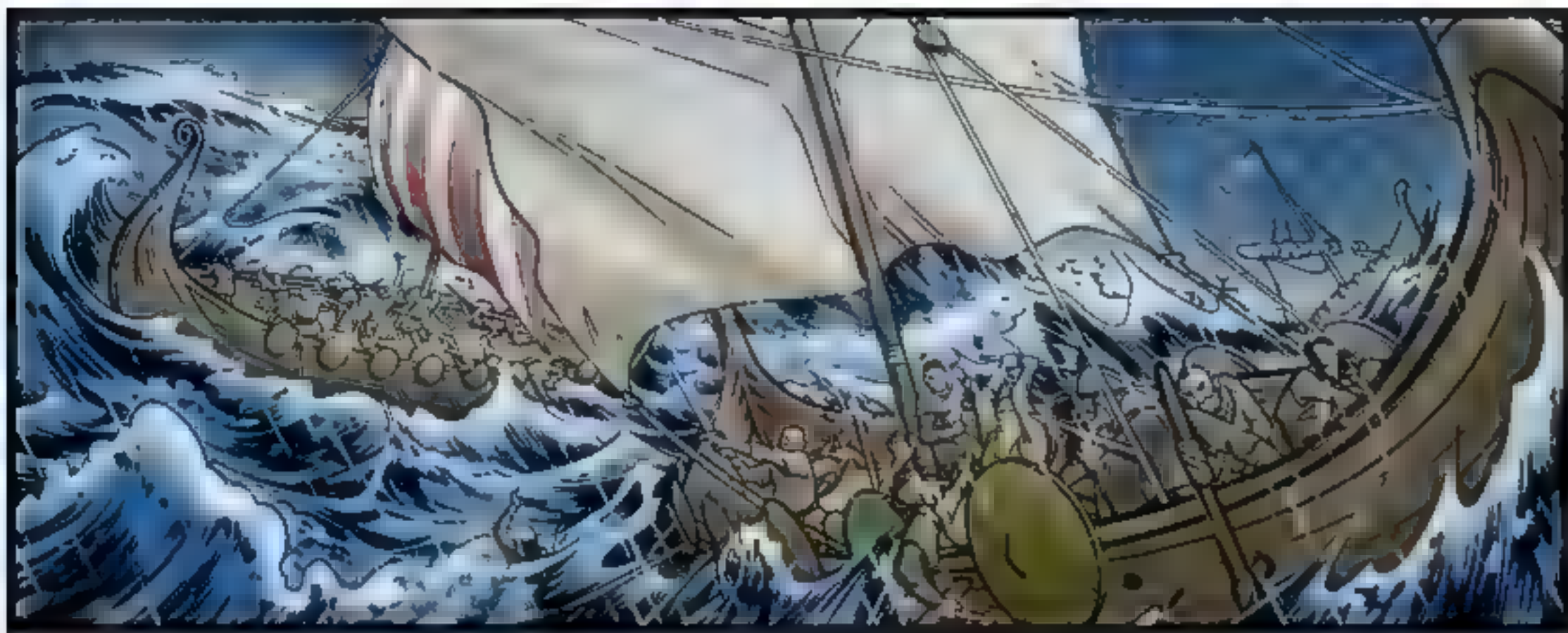


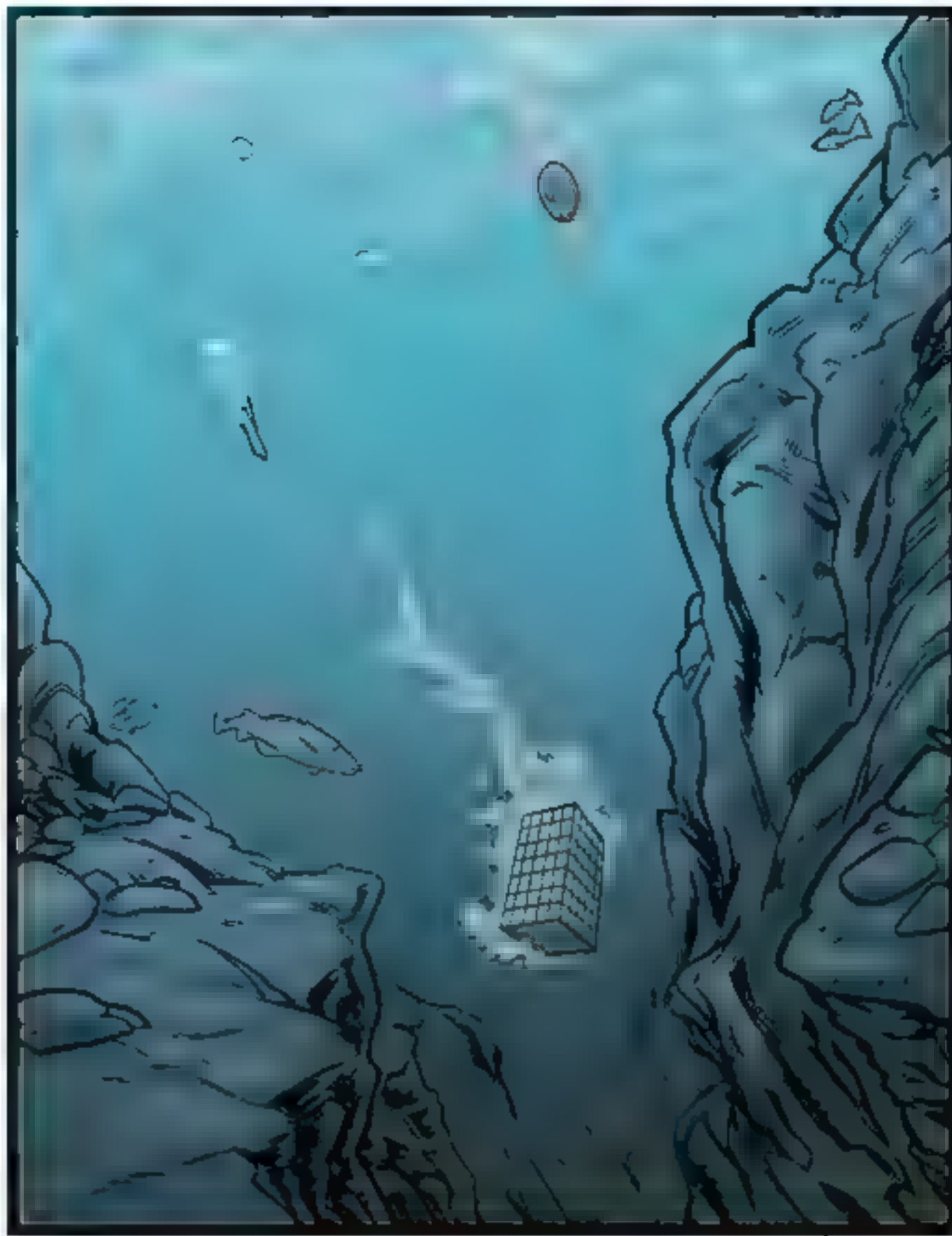
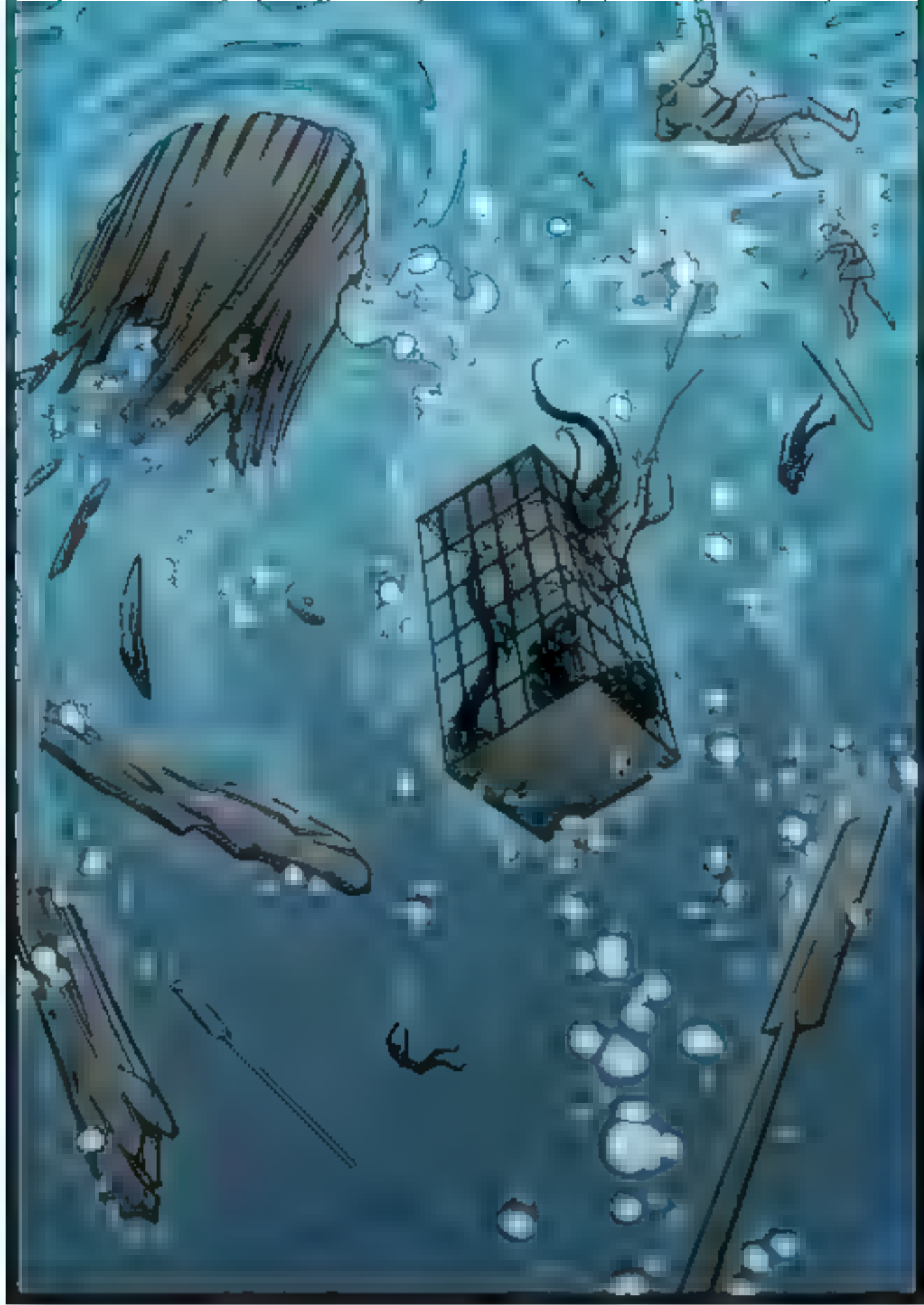
ауѣм

ауѣм

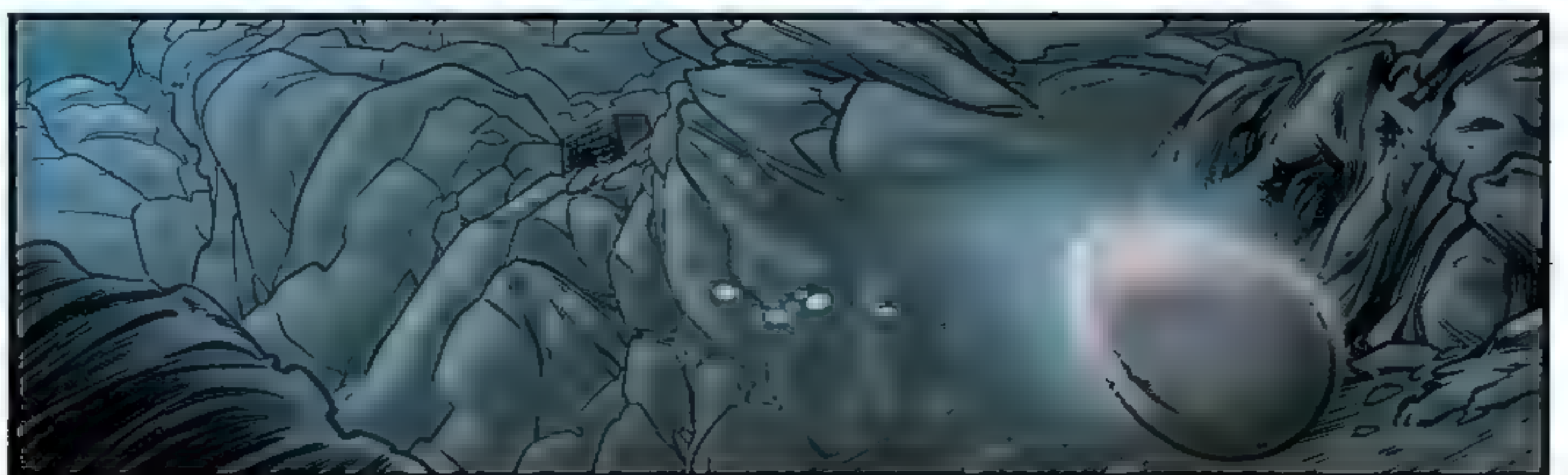
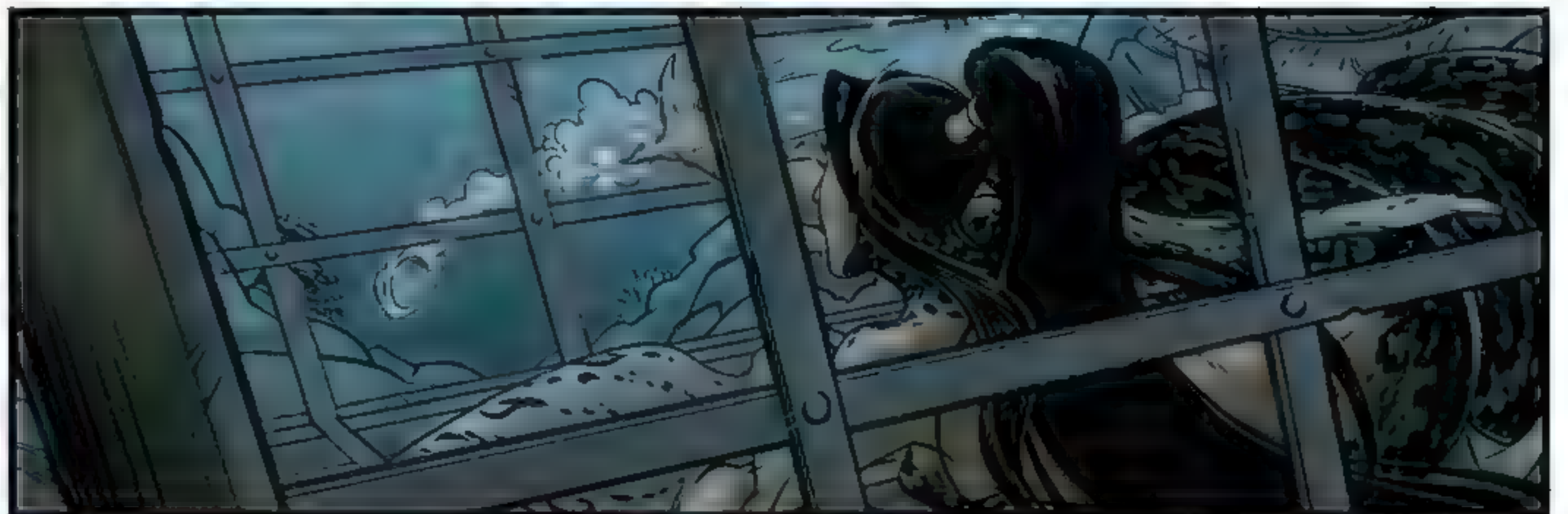
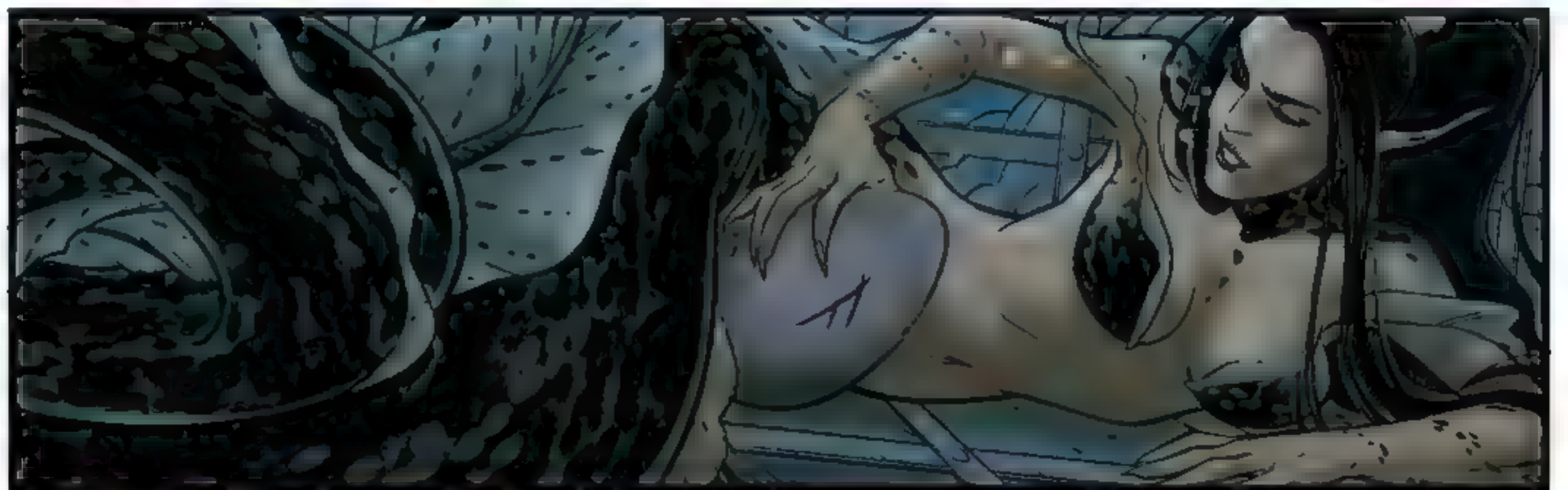
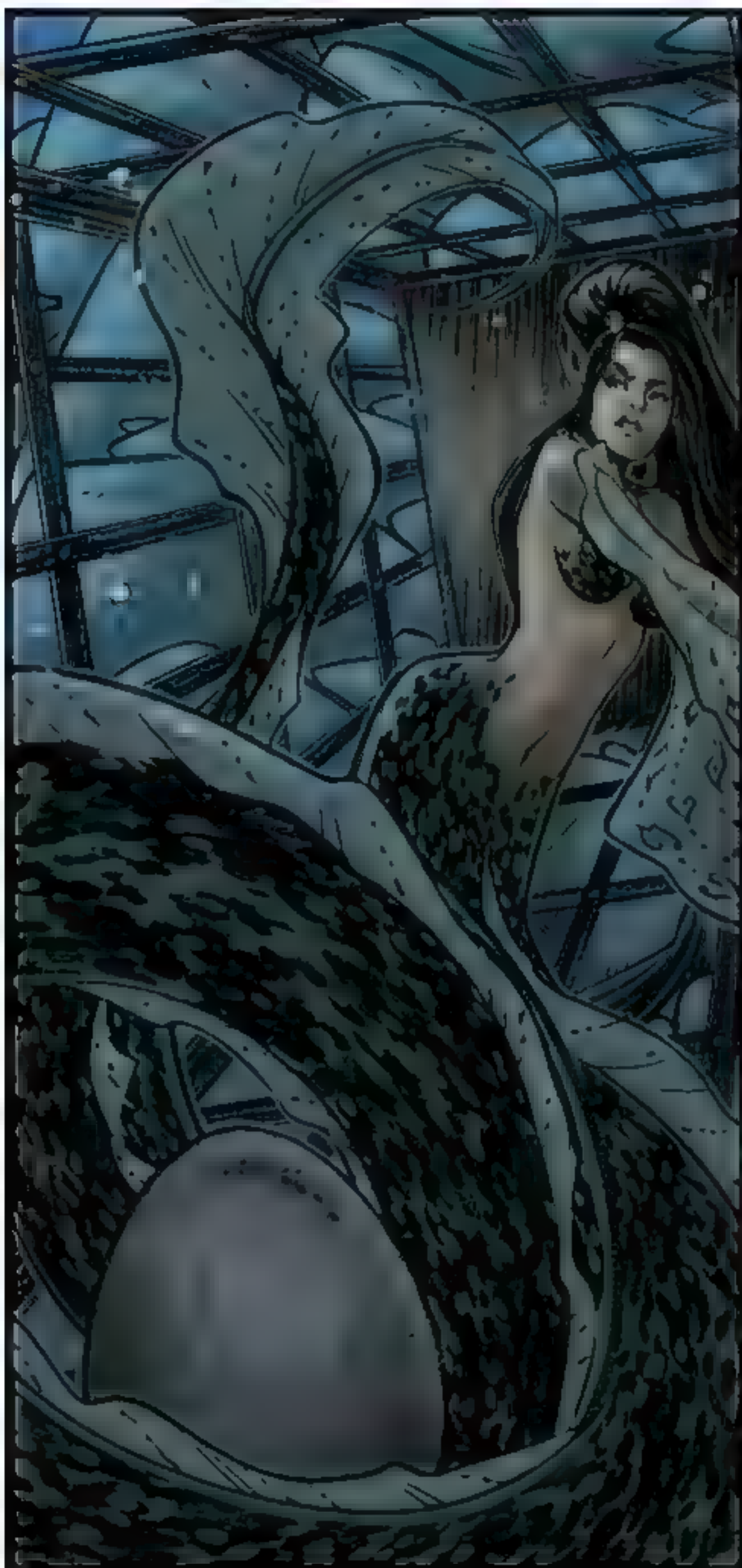
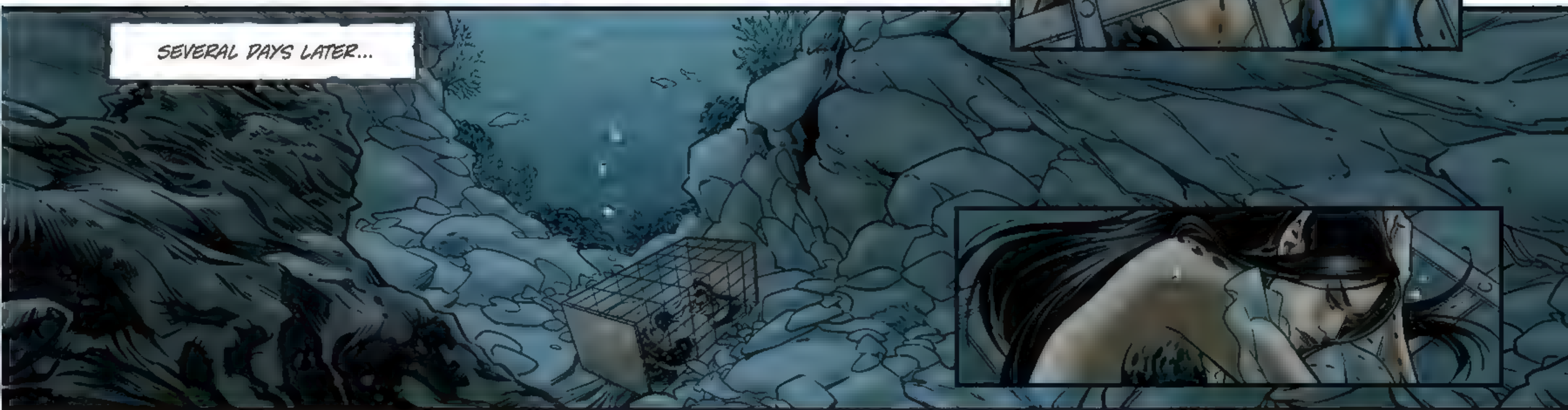
RHHAAAAA!







SEVERAL DAYS LATER...



MANY MONTHS LATER,
NOT FAR OFF THE
NORSE COAST...

BROMM

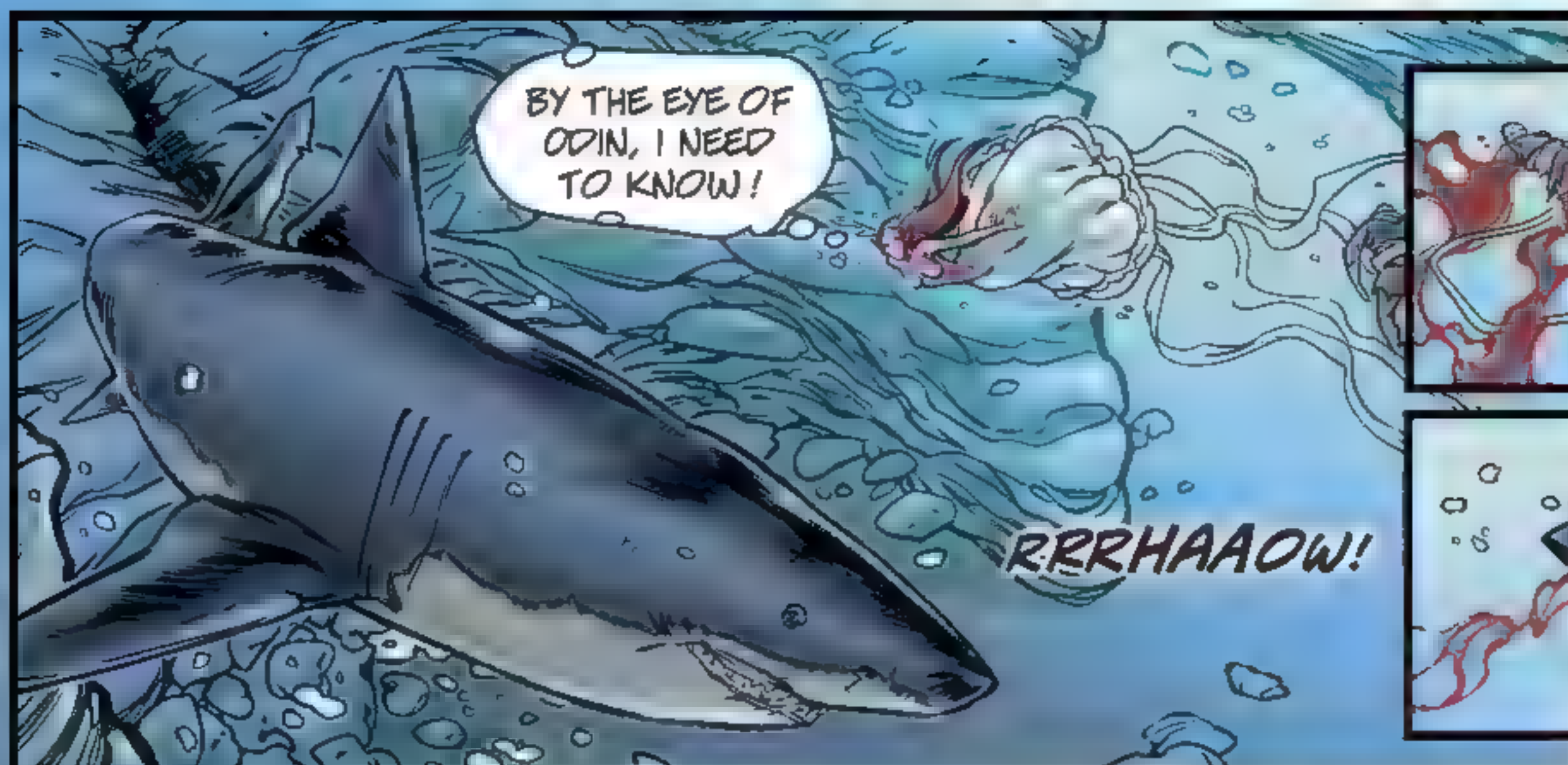
HUITHAI*...
STUPID, FEROCIOUS,
CREATURE...

*GREAT WHITE SHARK.

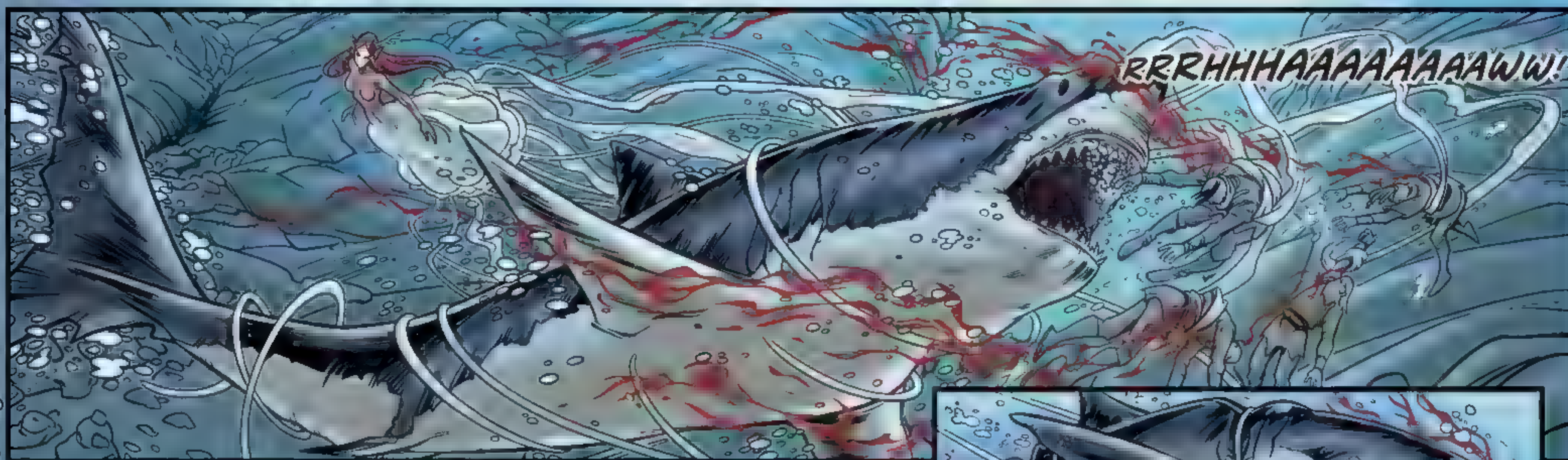
WHAT COULD HAVE
DRIVEN YOU INTO
SUCH A RAGE?

BROMM

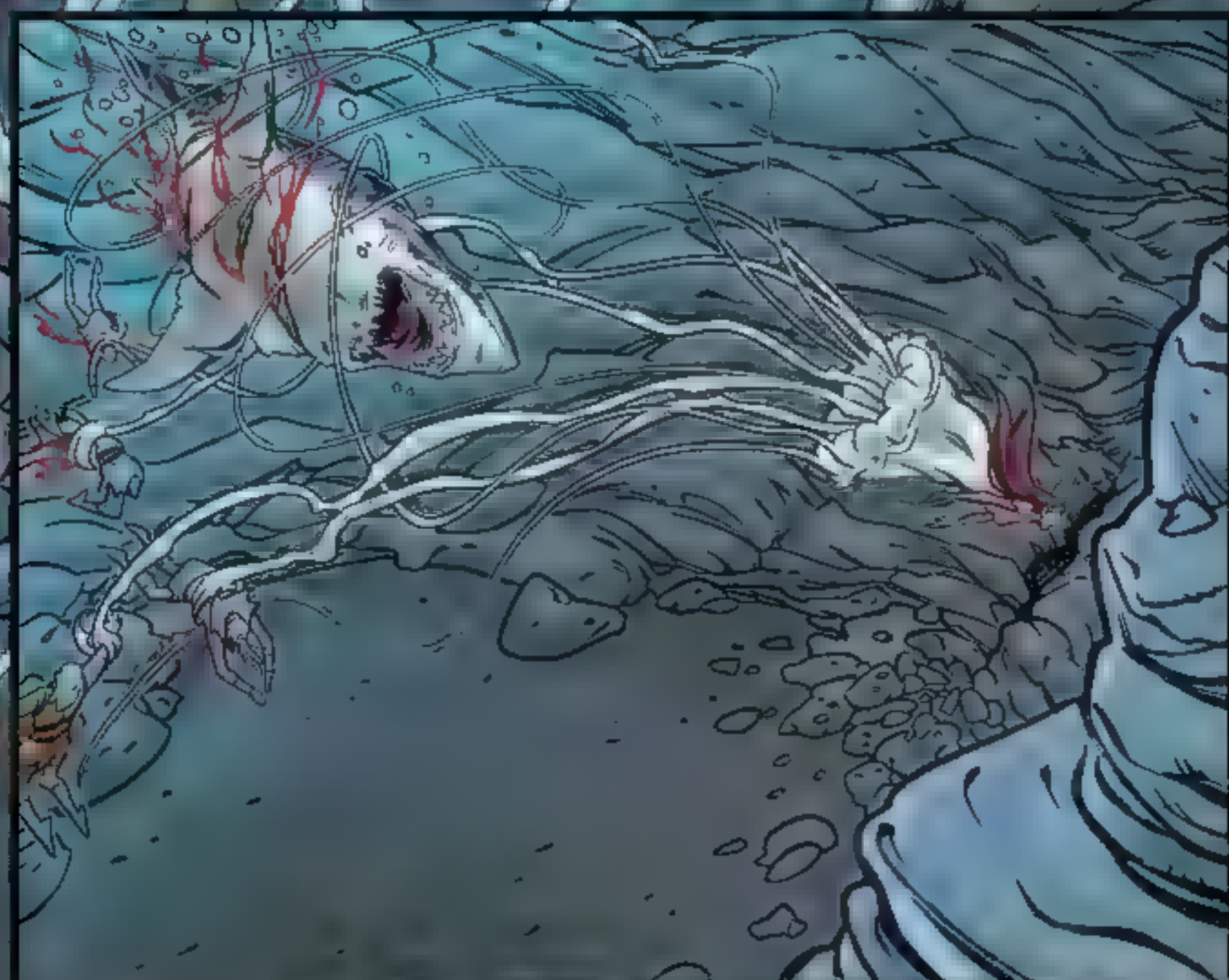
RRRHHHAAAAAAW!



RRRHAAOW!

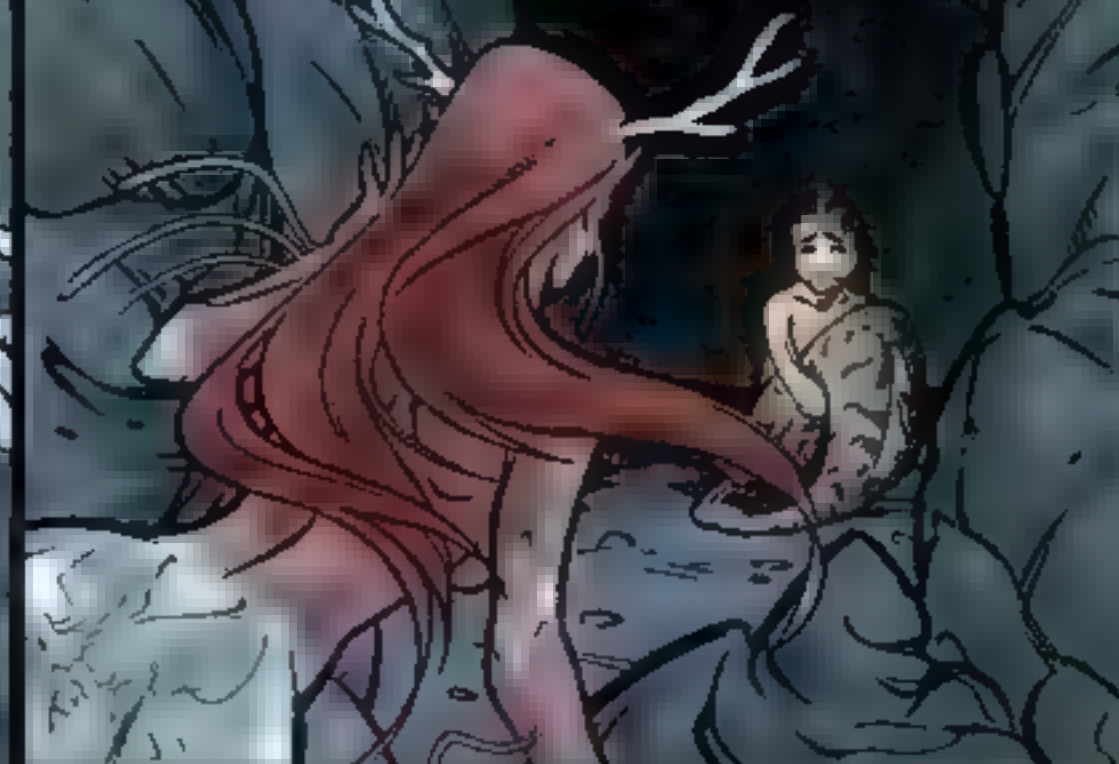


YOUR FLESH IS USELESS TO THE NEWTS, BUT YOU'RE LEAVING ME LITTLE CHOICE!



WHAT'S THIS?

WHY AREN'T YOU IN YOUR CAVE, YOU PATHETIC PLANKTON?!



WAIT...ON HIS CHEST...

...IS THAT THE ANSUZ RUNE?

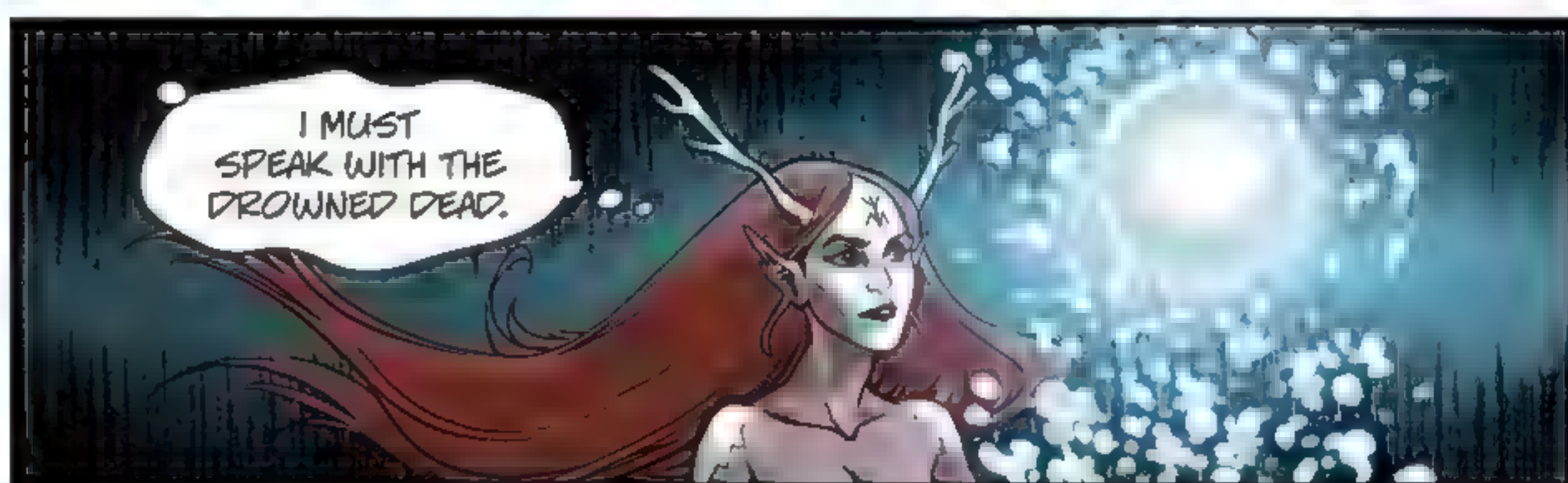


TRUST ME,
YOUNG NEWT,
THERE'S NO NEED
TO BE AFRAID
ANYMORE.

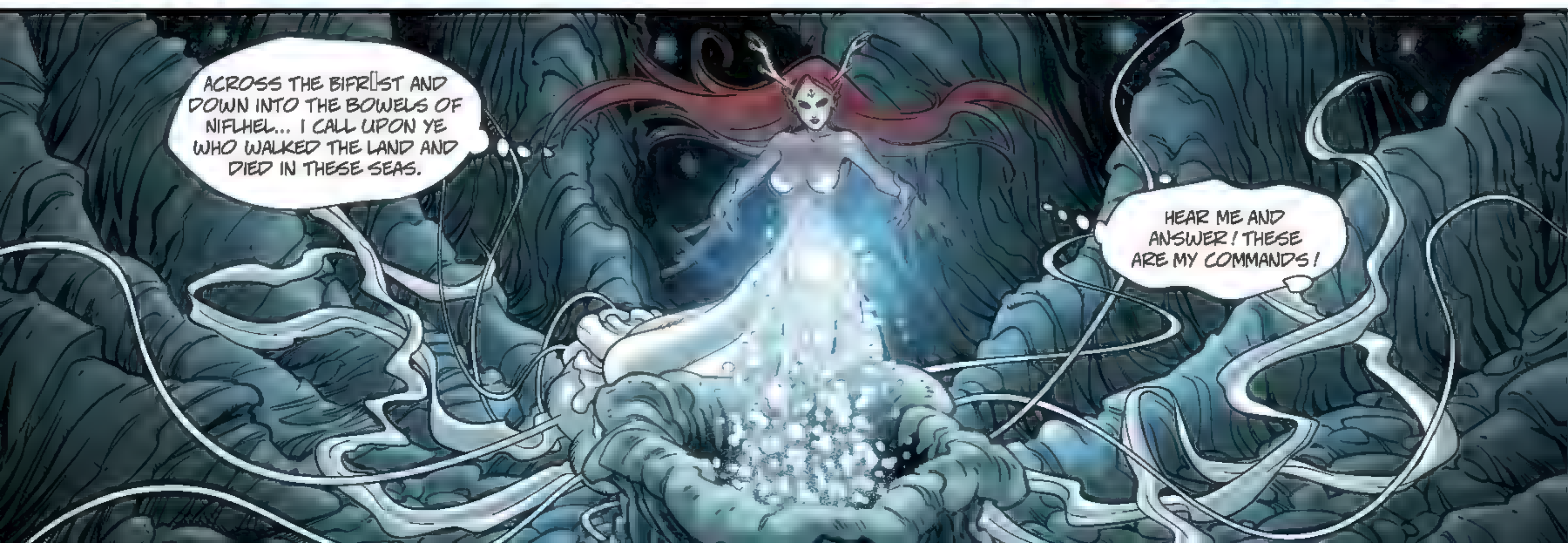


YOUR MARK MUST HAVE
FRIGHTENED YOUR KIND,
SO THEY CHASED YOU
AWAY... IS THAT IT?

I WONDER HOW YOU
CAME TO HAVE IT... AS FAR
AS I KNOW, NO NEWT
HAS EVER BORNE SUCH
MARKINGS BEFORE.



I MUST
SPEAK WITH THE
DROWNED DEAD.



ACROSS THE BIRFIST AND
DOWN INTO THE BOWELS OF
NIFLHEL... I CALL UPON YE
WHO WALKED THE LAND AND
DIED IN THESE SEAS.

HEAR ME AND
ANSWER! THESE
ARE MY COMMANDS!



SPEAK... WE...
HEAR... YOU... SOVEREIGN...
OF... THE... SEAS.

THE ANSUZ HAS
APPEARED... IN A
MOST UNUSUAL
FORM.



ANSUZ... IS... THE...
RUNE... OF... THE...
AESIR*... GODS... AND...
THE... ORIGIN... OF...
KNOWLEDGE.

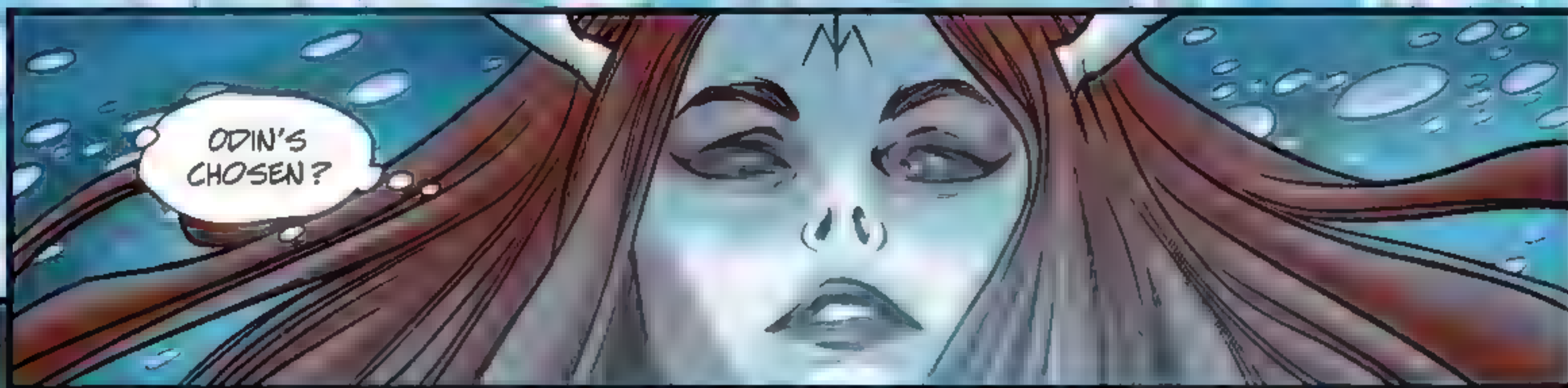
IT... SYMBOLIZES... THE...
GIFTS... OF... WISDOM...
AND... OF... MAGIC.

*IN NORSE MYTHOLOGY, THE AESIR FORM THE PRINCIPAL PANTHEON OF GODS ASSOCIATED WITH, OR RELATED TO, ODIN, RESIDING IN THE LAND OF ASGARD.



HAVE ANY NEWTS
EVER WORN
THAT SYMBOL?

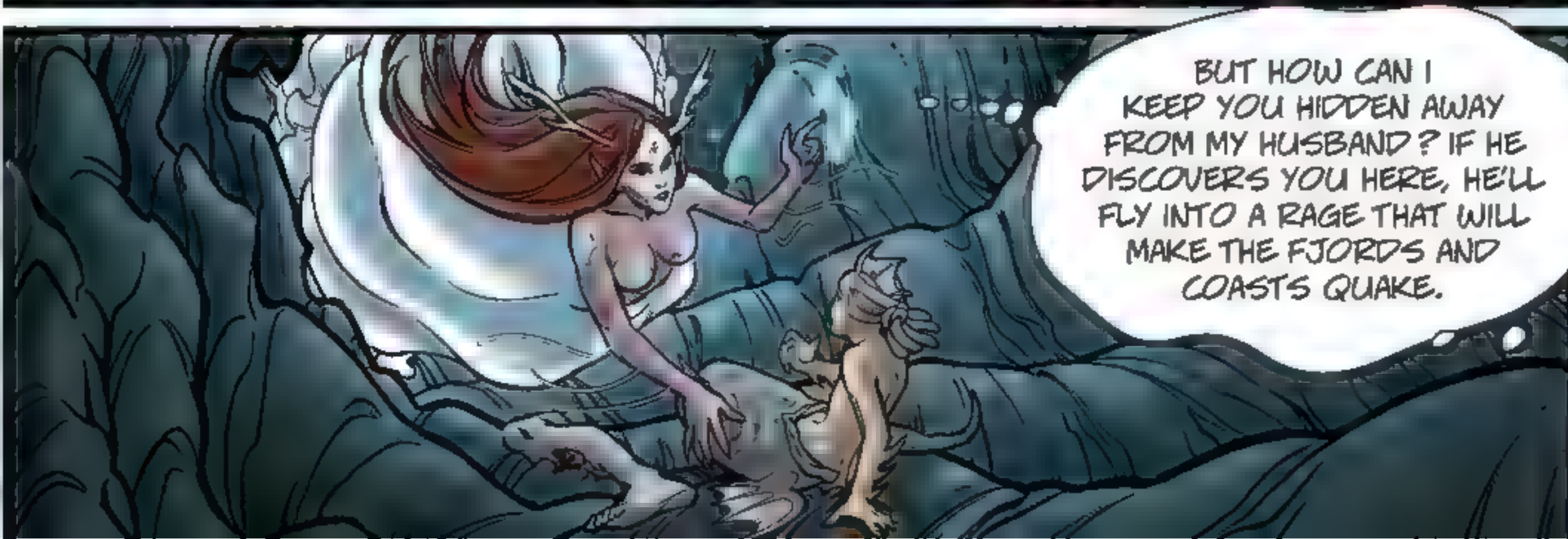
IMPOSSIBLE... ONLY...
ODIN'S... CHOSEN...
BEAR... THE... ANSUZ.



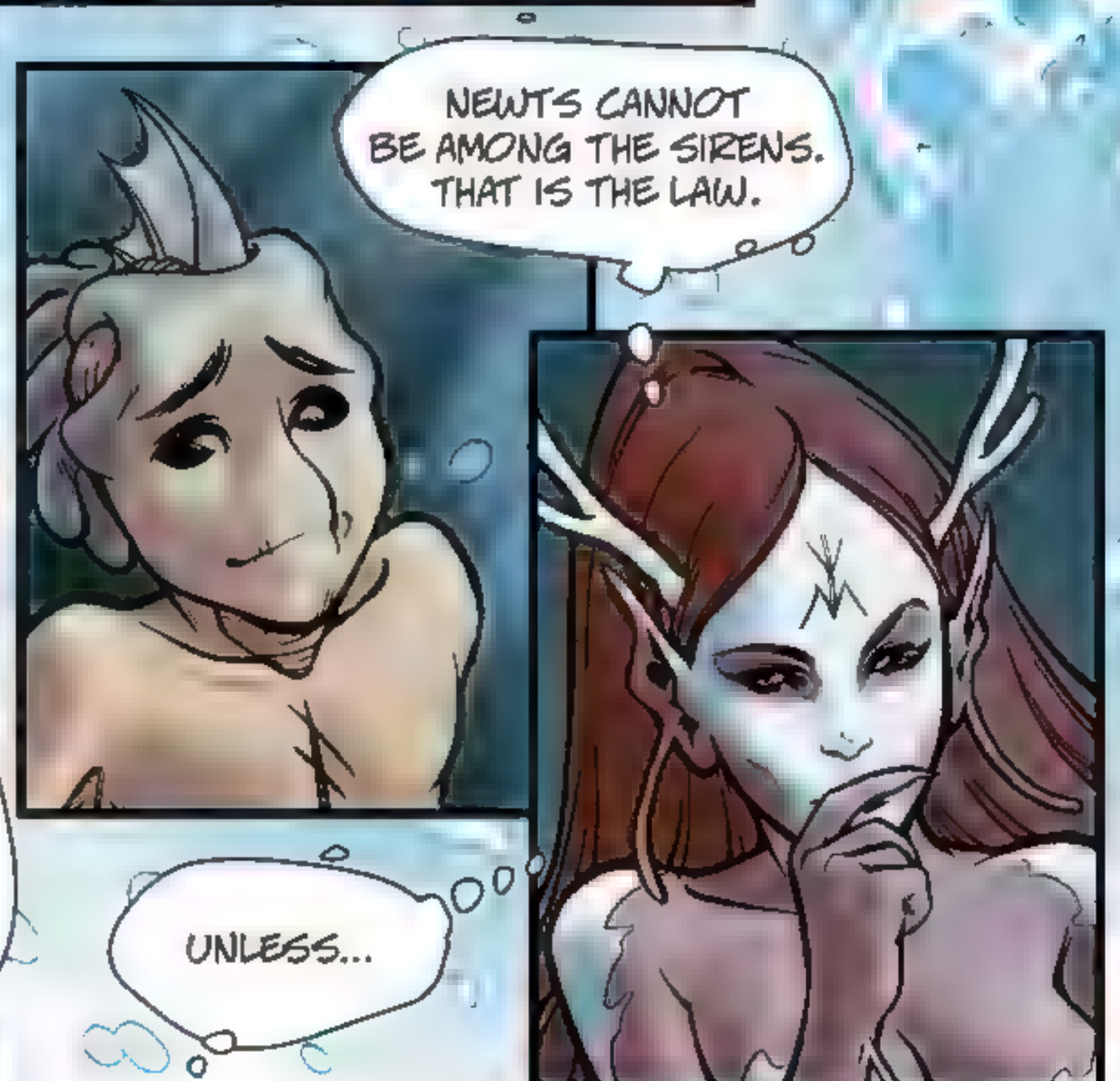
ODIN'S
CHOSEN?



I CANNOT
RISK SENDING
YOU BACK TO
YOUR KIND.

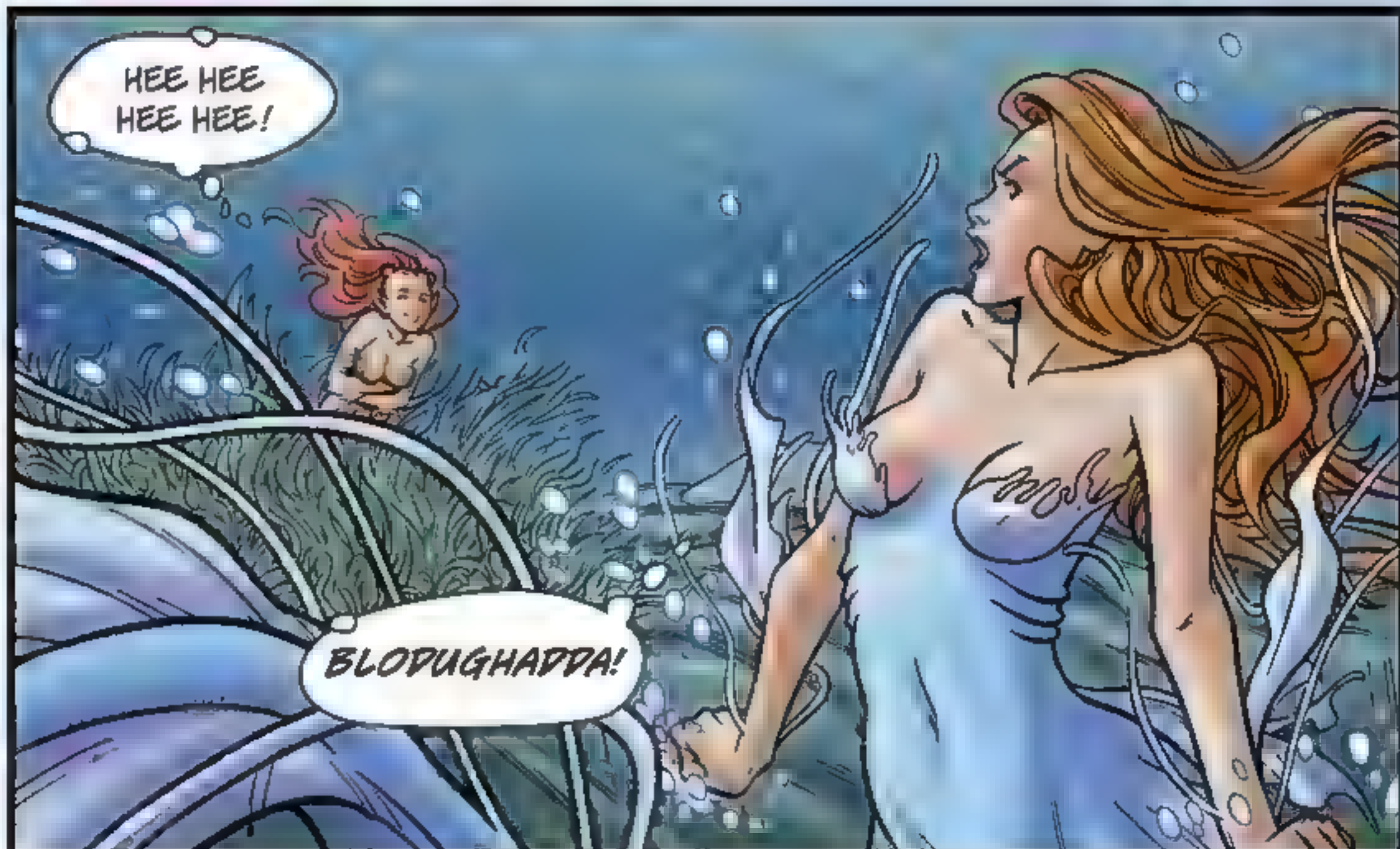
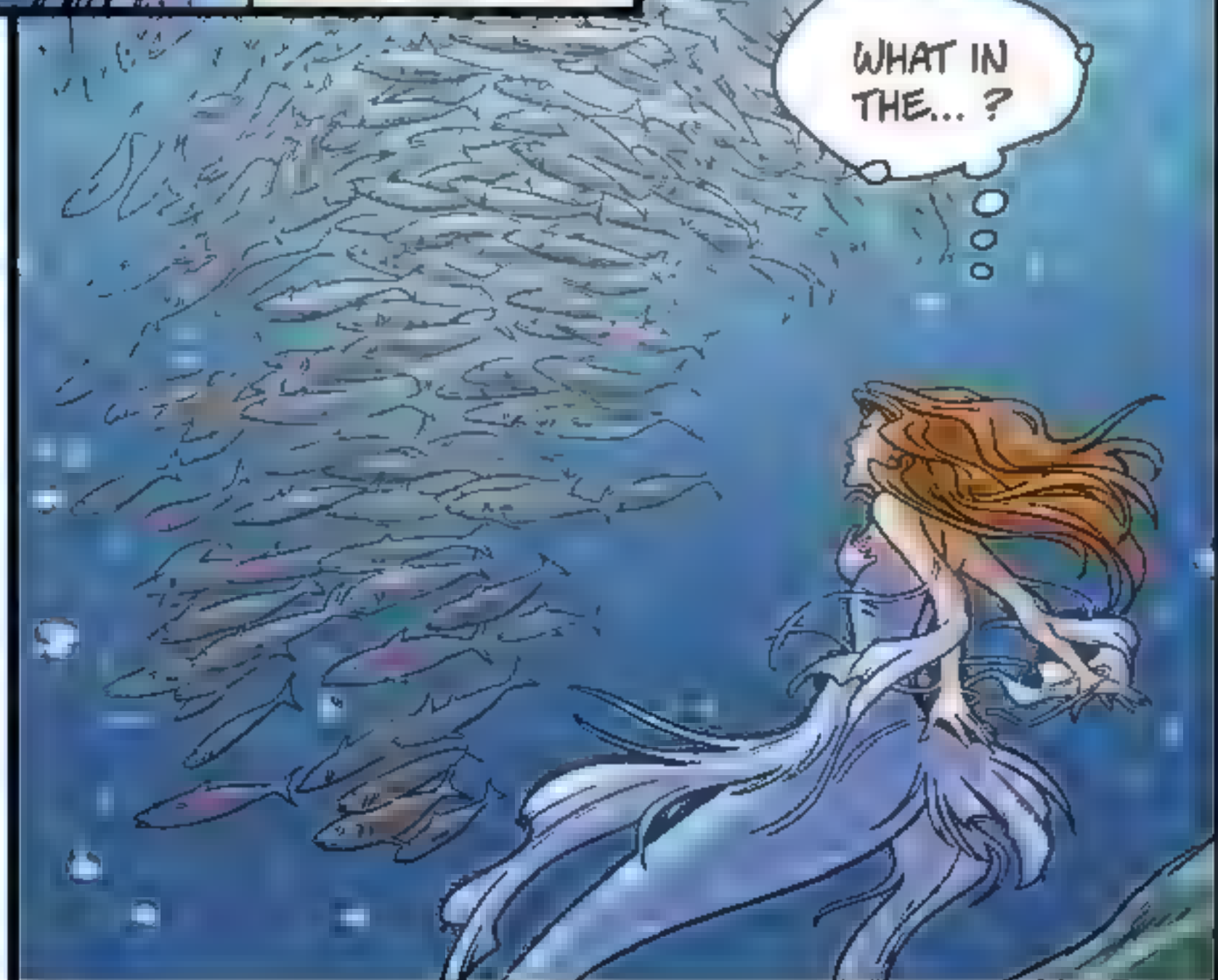
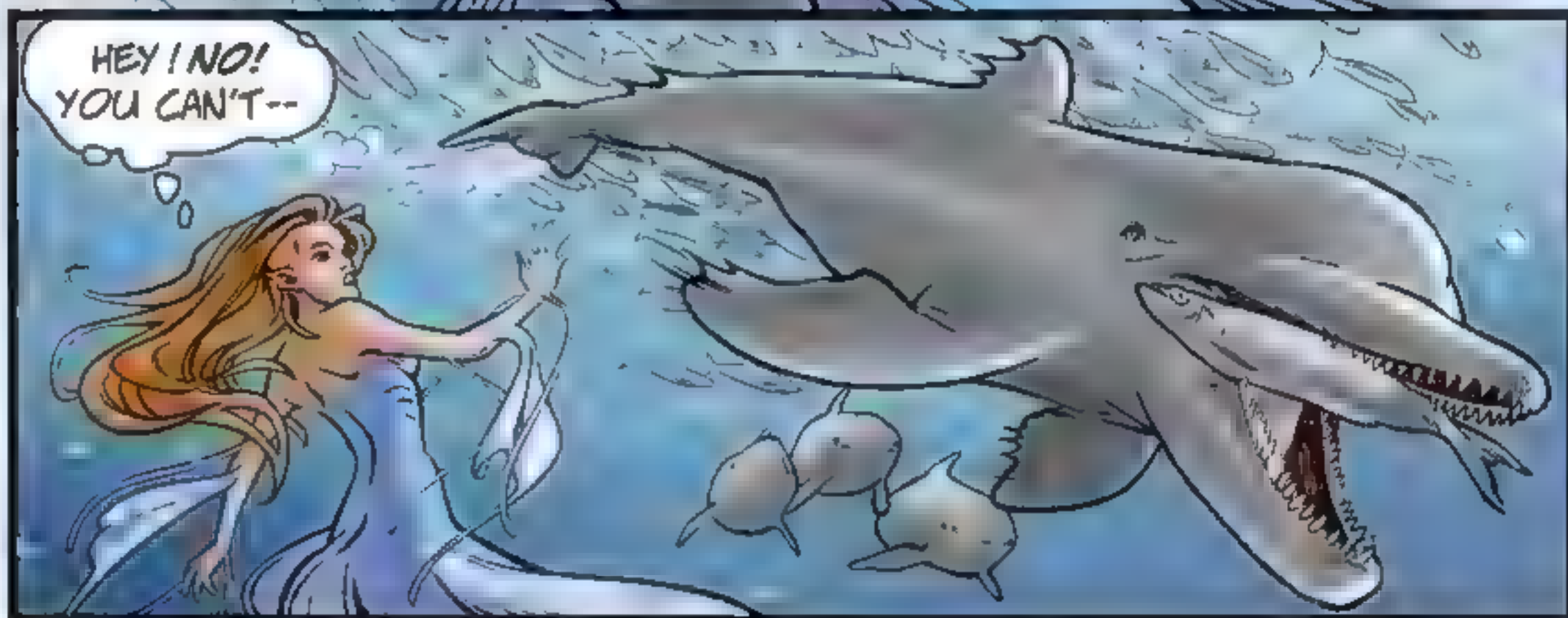
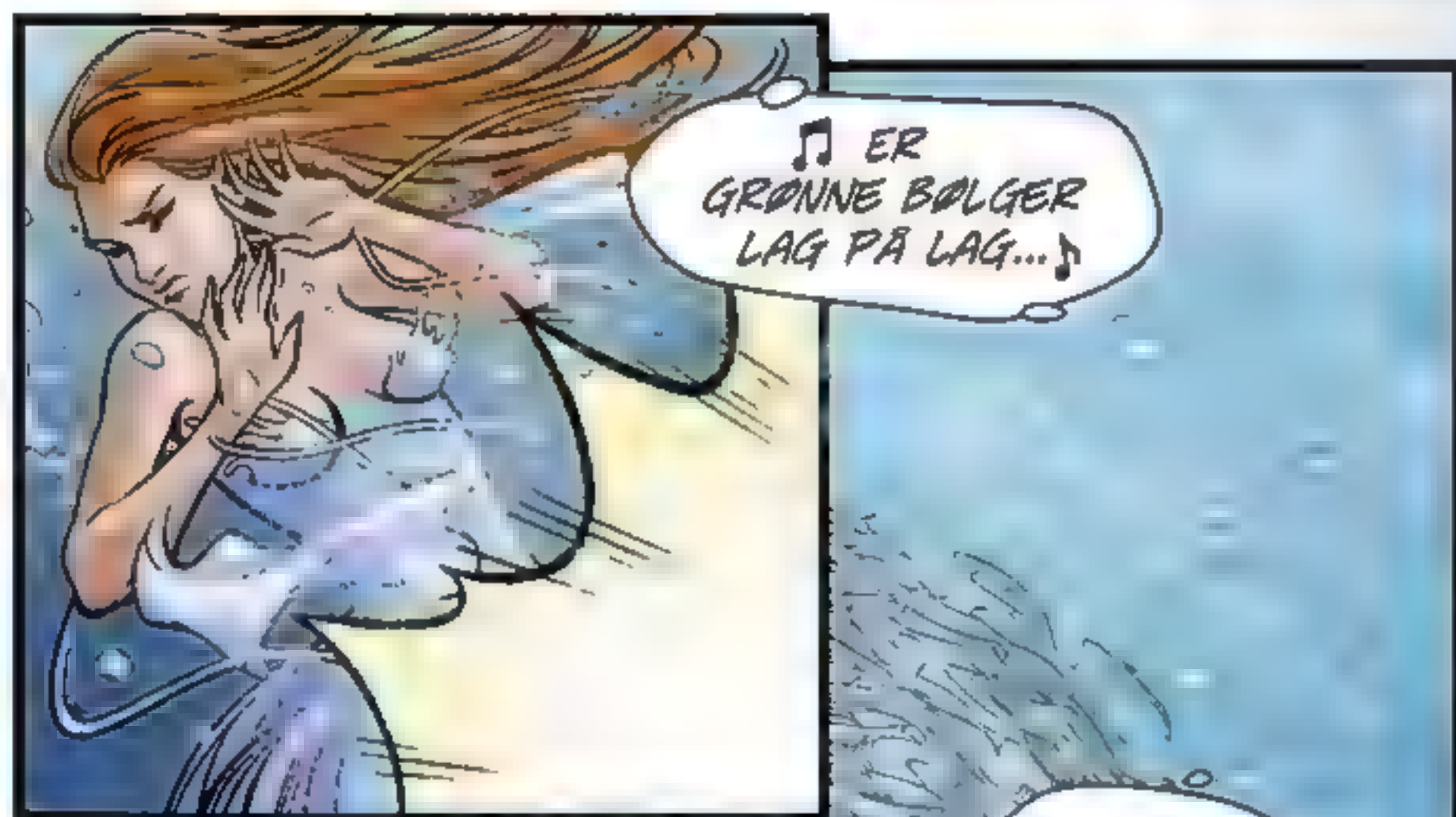
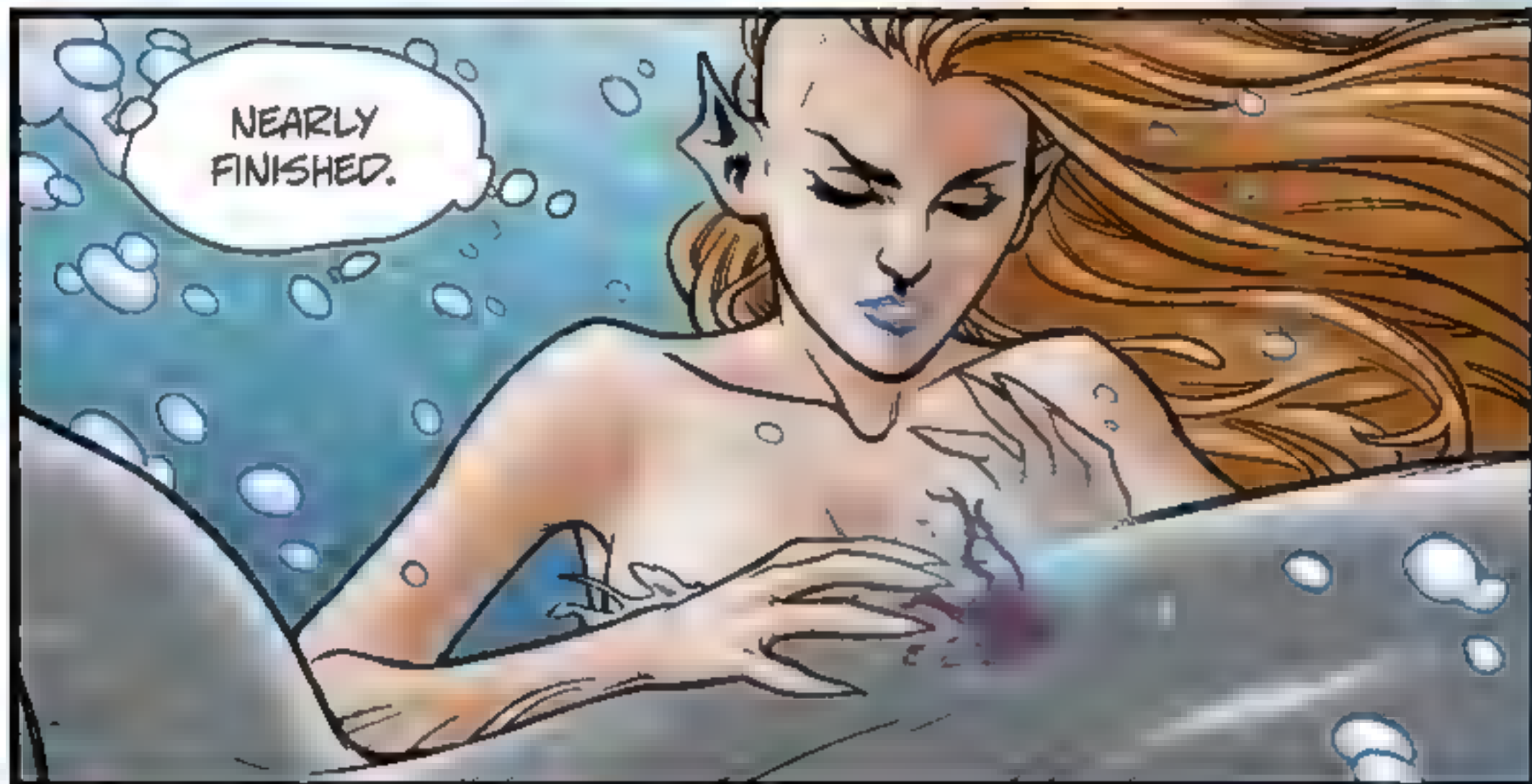
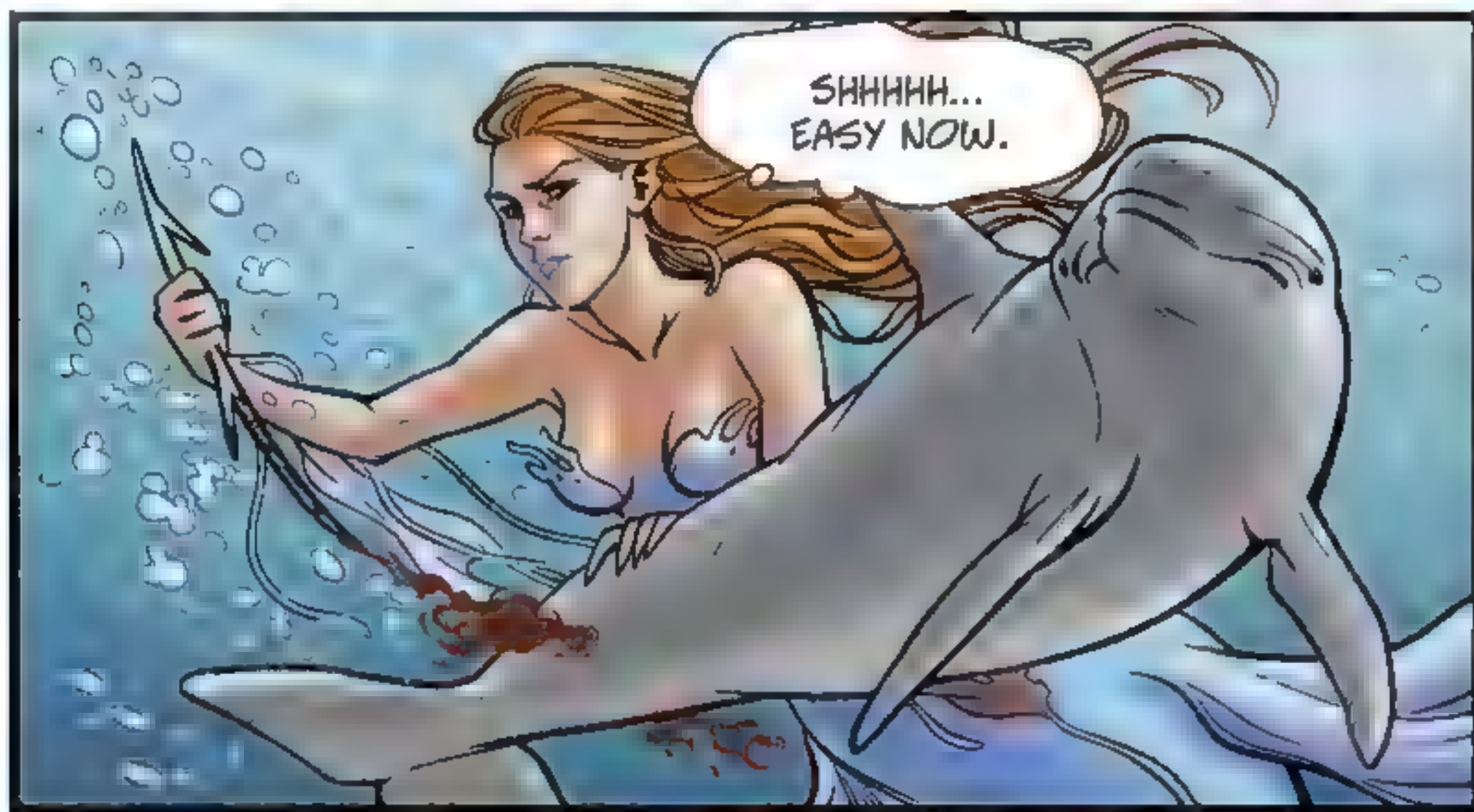
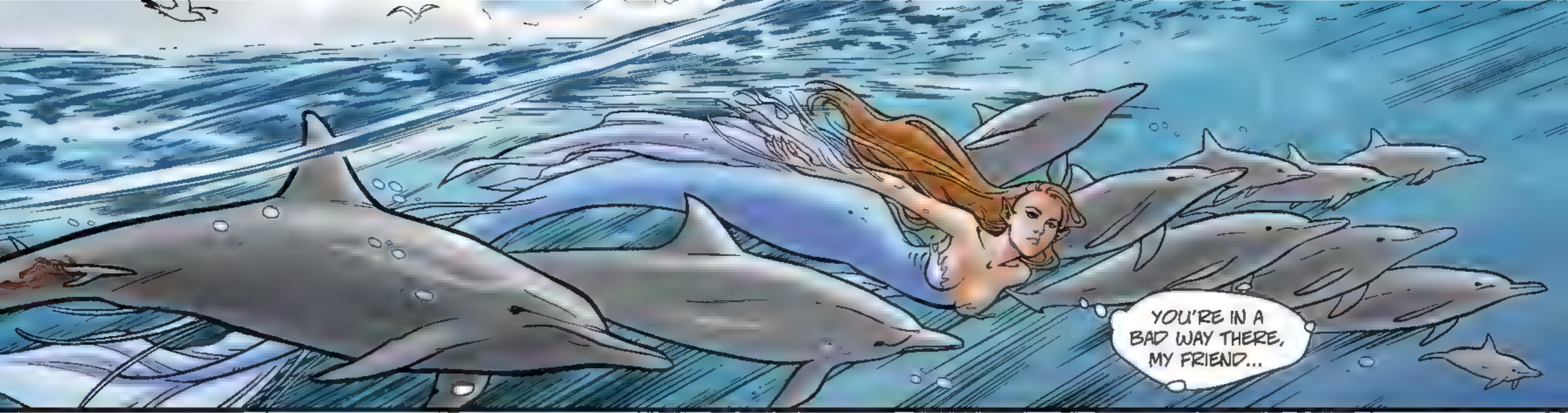


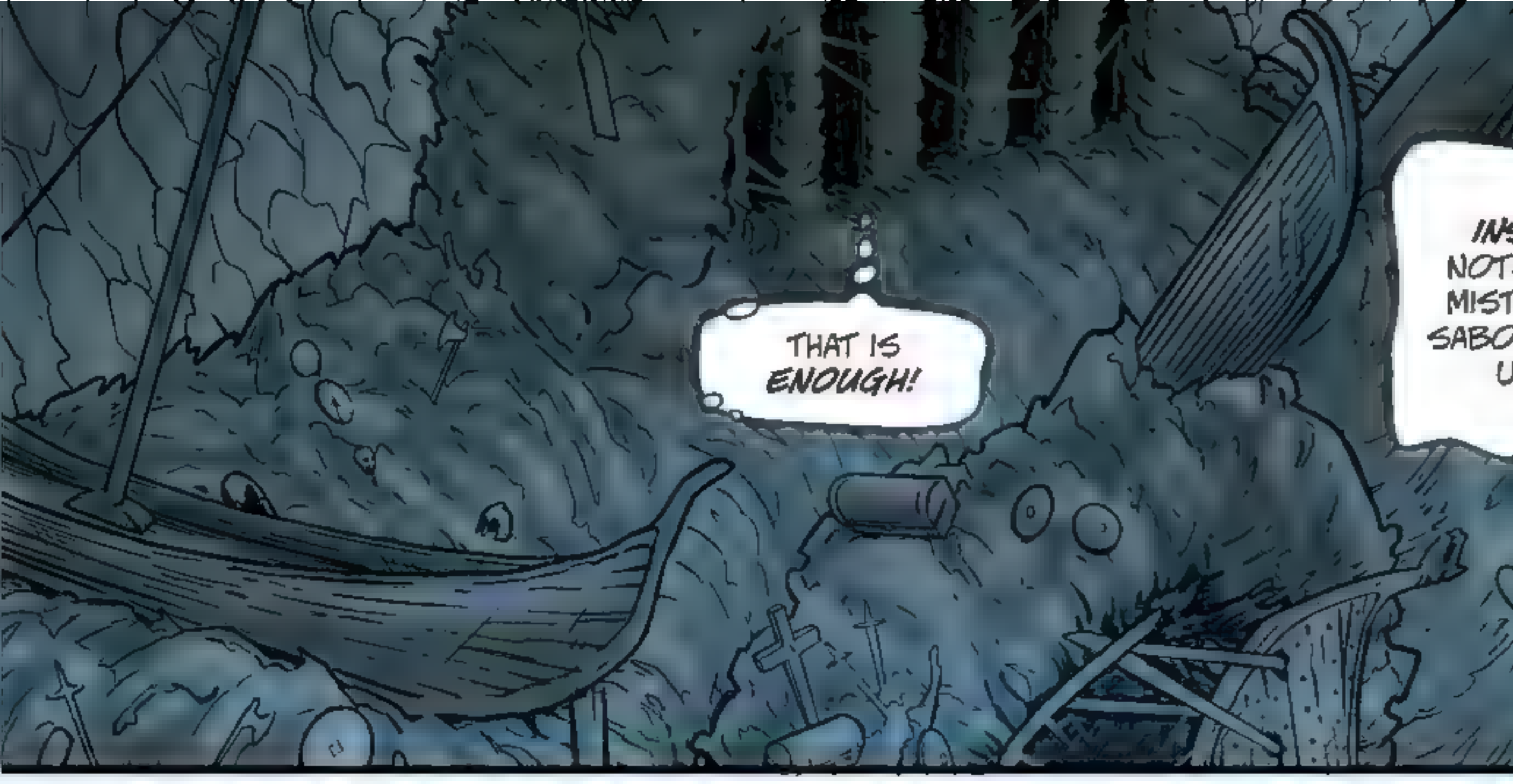
BUT HOW CAN I
KEEP YOU HIDDEN AWAY
FROM MY HUSBAND? IF HE
DISCOVERS YOU HERE, HE'LL
FLY INTO A RAGE THAT WILL
MAKE THE FJORDS AND
COASTS SHAKE.



NEWTS CANNOT
BE AMONG THE SIRENS.
THAT IS THE LAW.

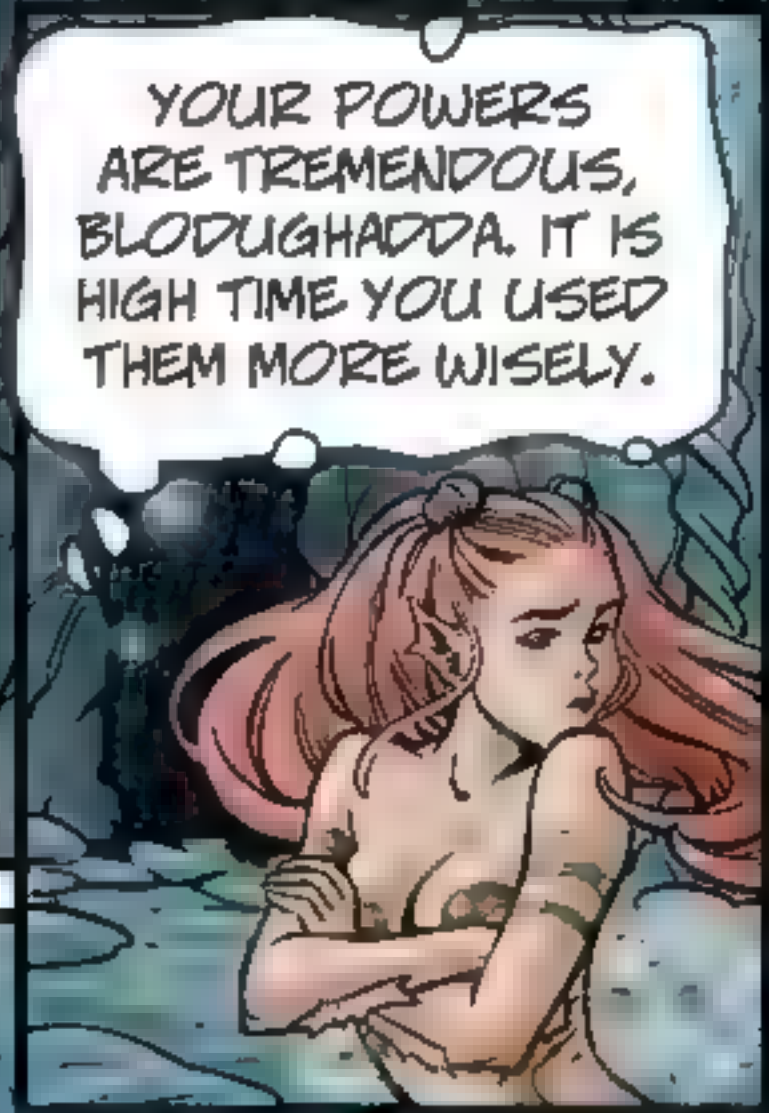
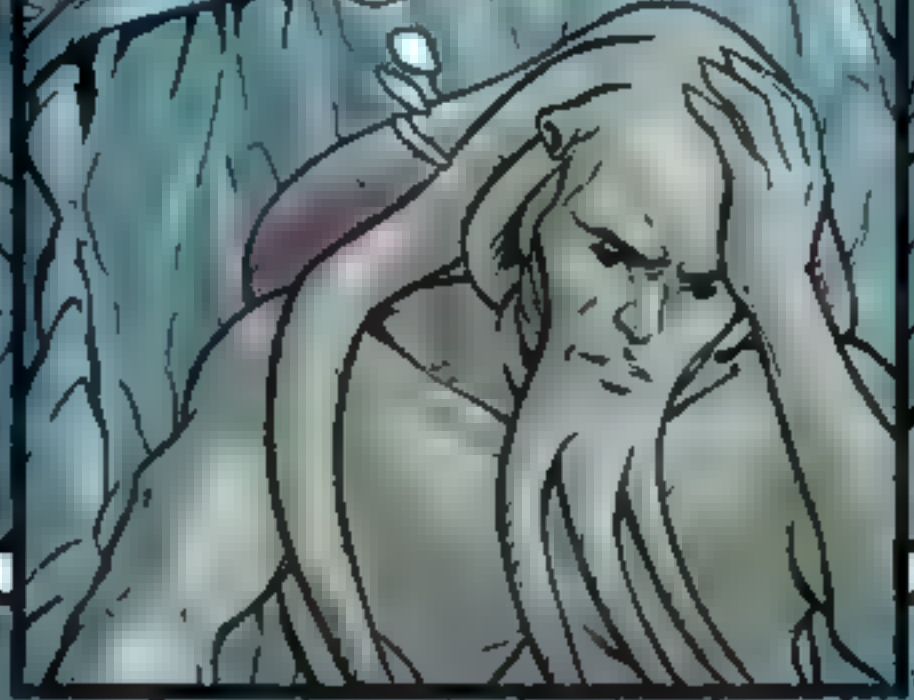
UNLESS...



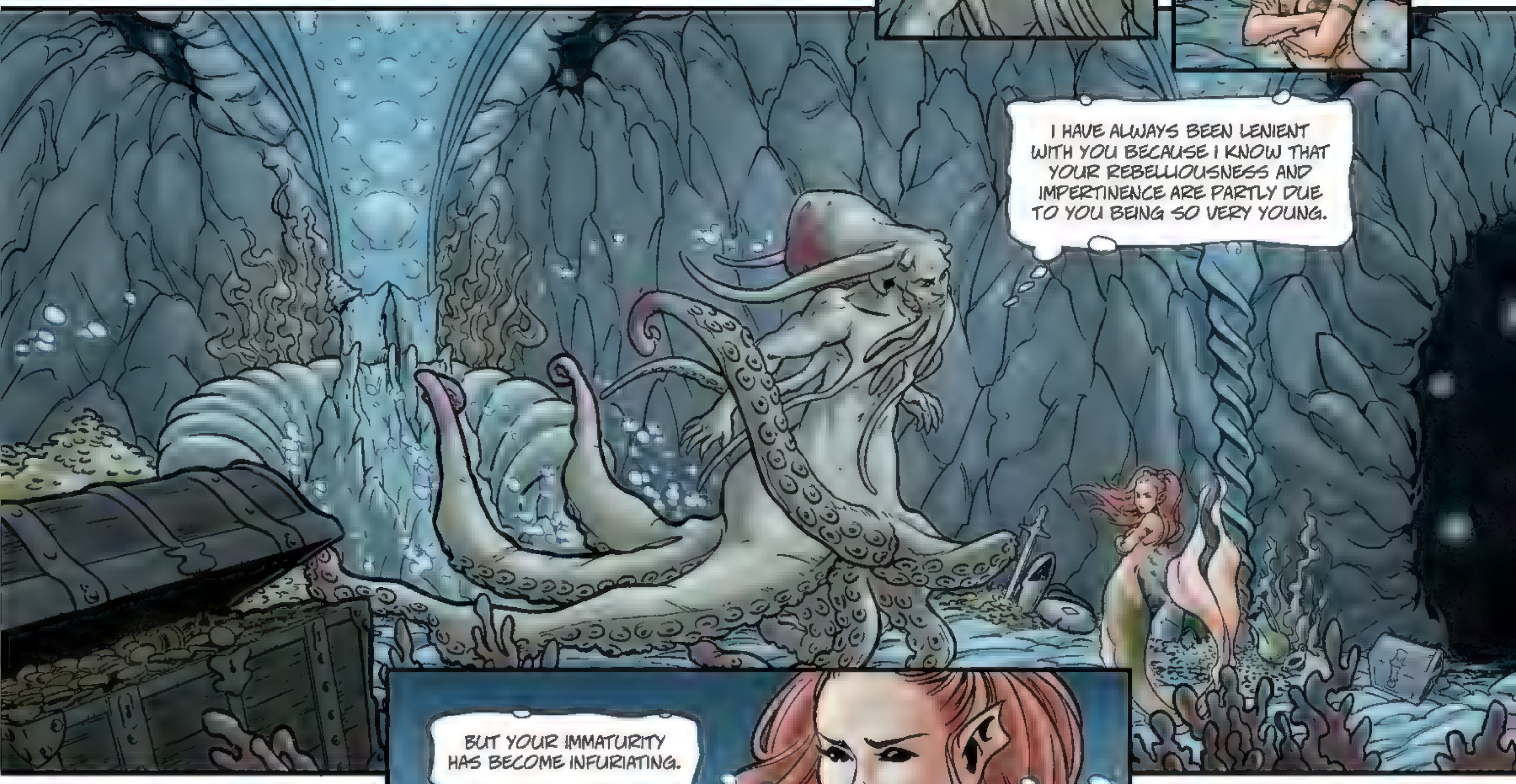


THAT IS
ENOUGH!

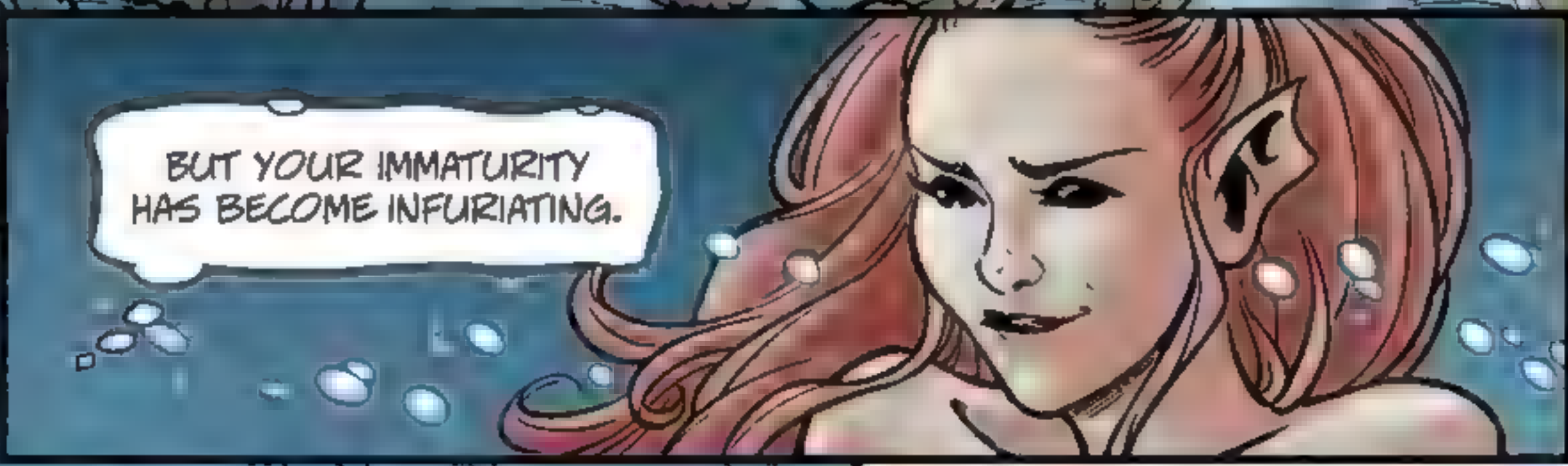
YOUR ATTITUDE IS
INSUFFERABLE! HAVE YOU
NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN
MISTREAT YOUR SISTERS AND
SABOTAGE THEIR WORK? POOR
UDR IS DEVASTATED BY
WHAT YOU DID!



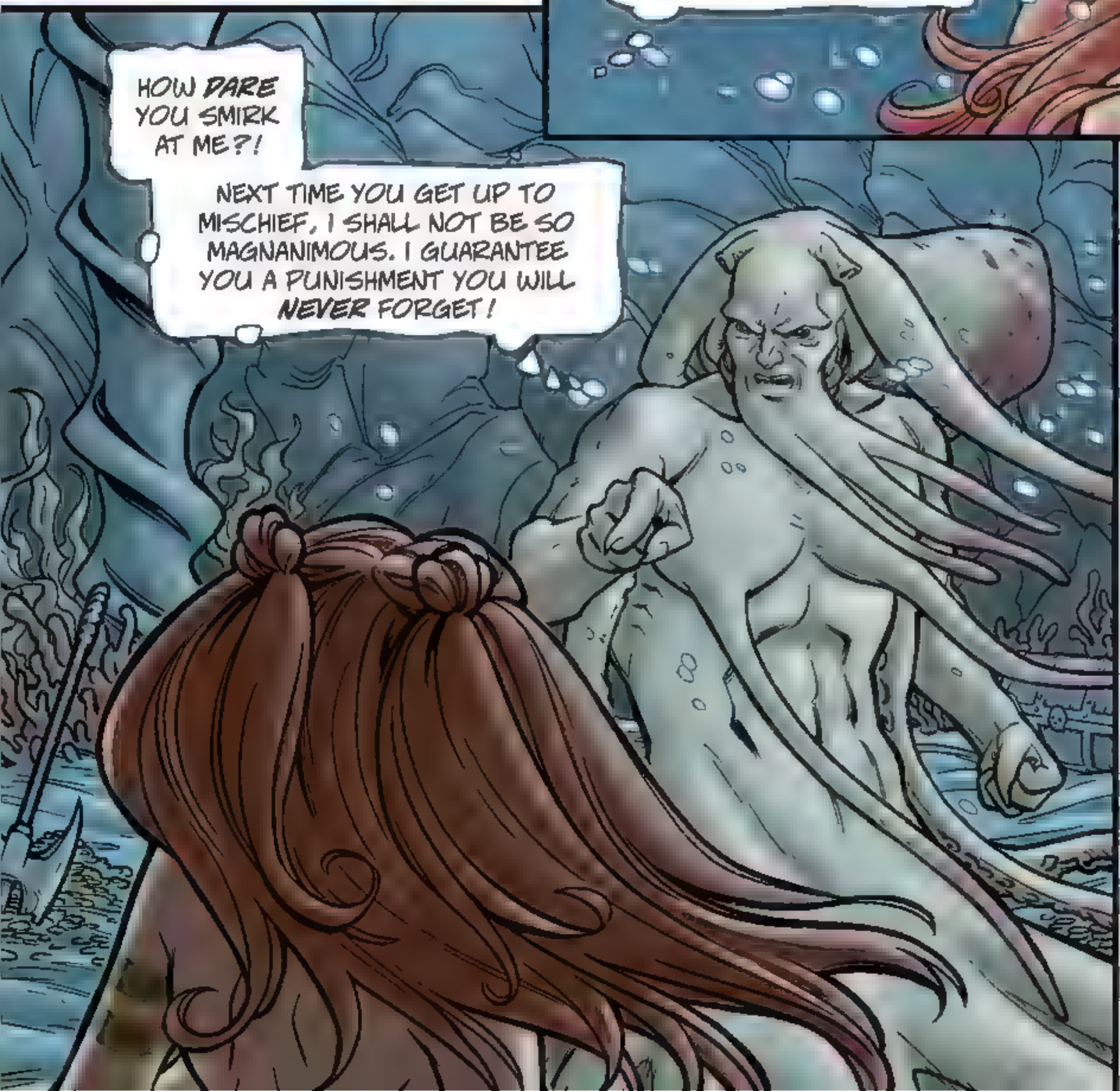
YOUR POWERS
ARE TREMENDOUS,
BLODUGHADDA. IT IS
HIGH TIME YOU USED
THEM MORE WISELY.



I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LENIENT
WITH YOU BECAUSE I KNOW THAT
YOUR REBELLIOUSNESS AND
IMPERTINENCE ARE PARTLY DUE
TO YOU BEING SO VERY YOUNG.

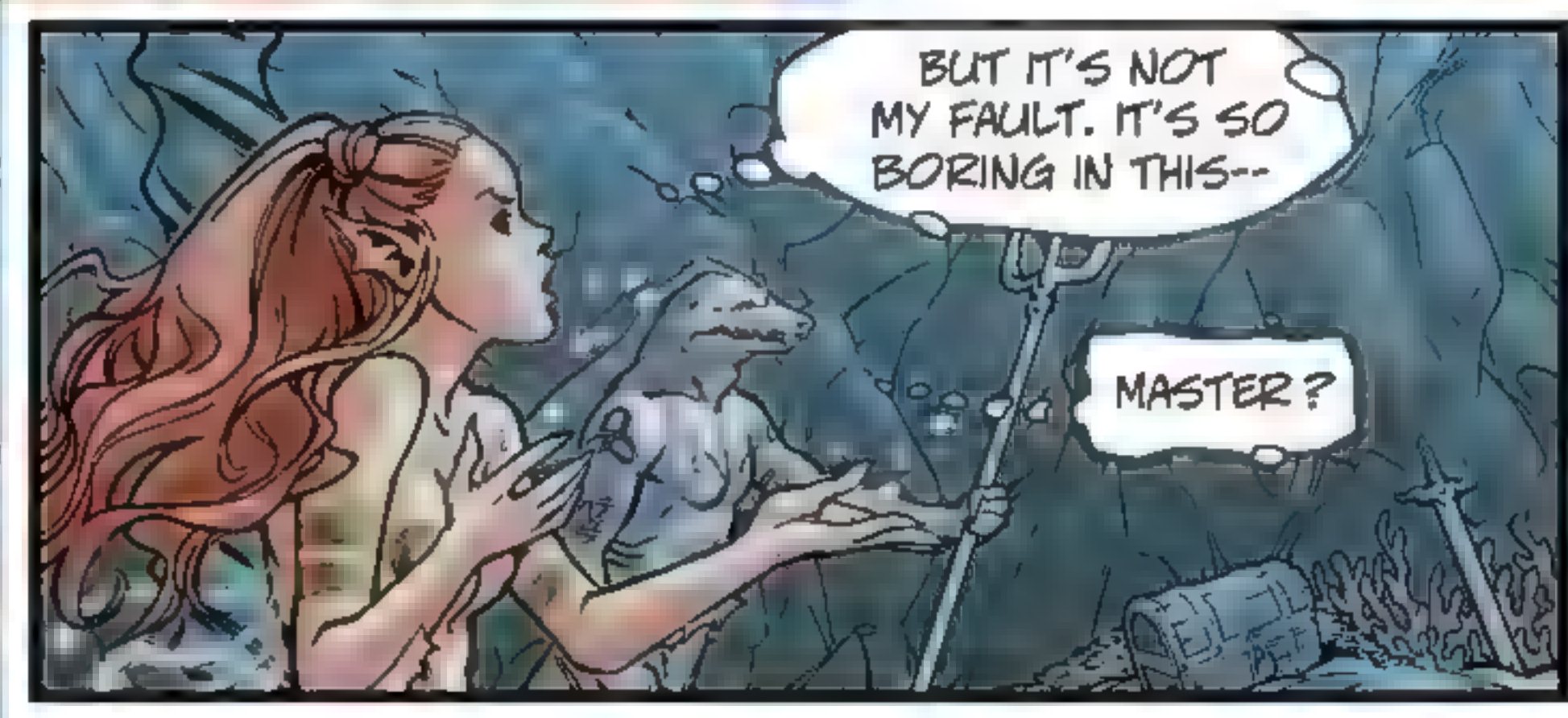


BUT YOUR IMMATURITY
HAS BECOME INFURIATING.



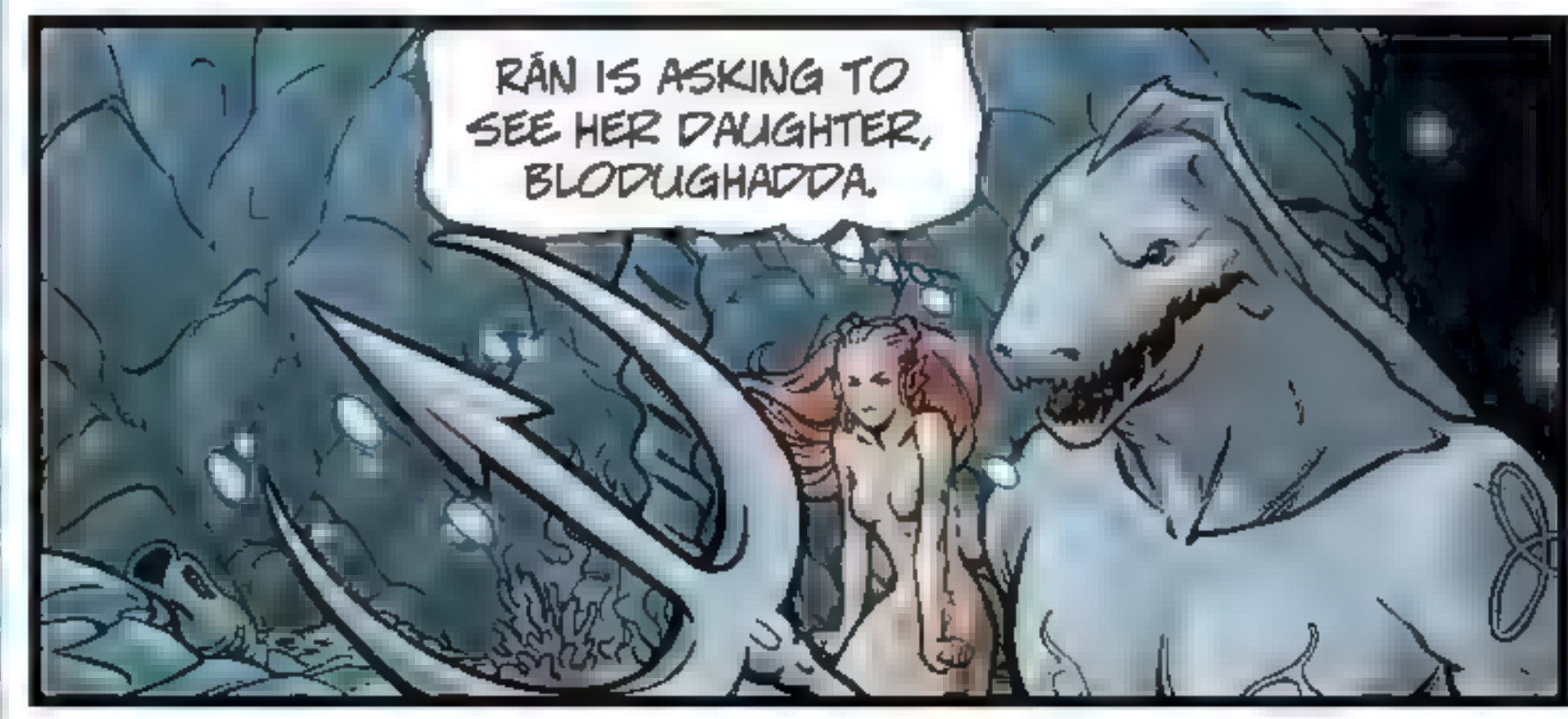
HOW DARE
YOU SMIRK
AT ME?!

NEXT TIME YOU GET UP TO
MISCHIEF, I SHALL NOT BE SO
MAGNANIMOUS. I GUARANTEE
YOU A PUNISHMENT YOU WILL
NEVER FORGET!



BUT IT'S NOT
MY FAULT. IT'S SO
BORING IN THIS--

MASTER?



RÄN IS ASKING TO
SEE HER DAUGHTER,
BLODUGHADDA.



YOU
SUMMONED ME,
MOTHER?

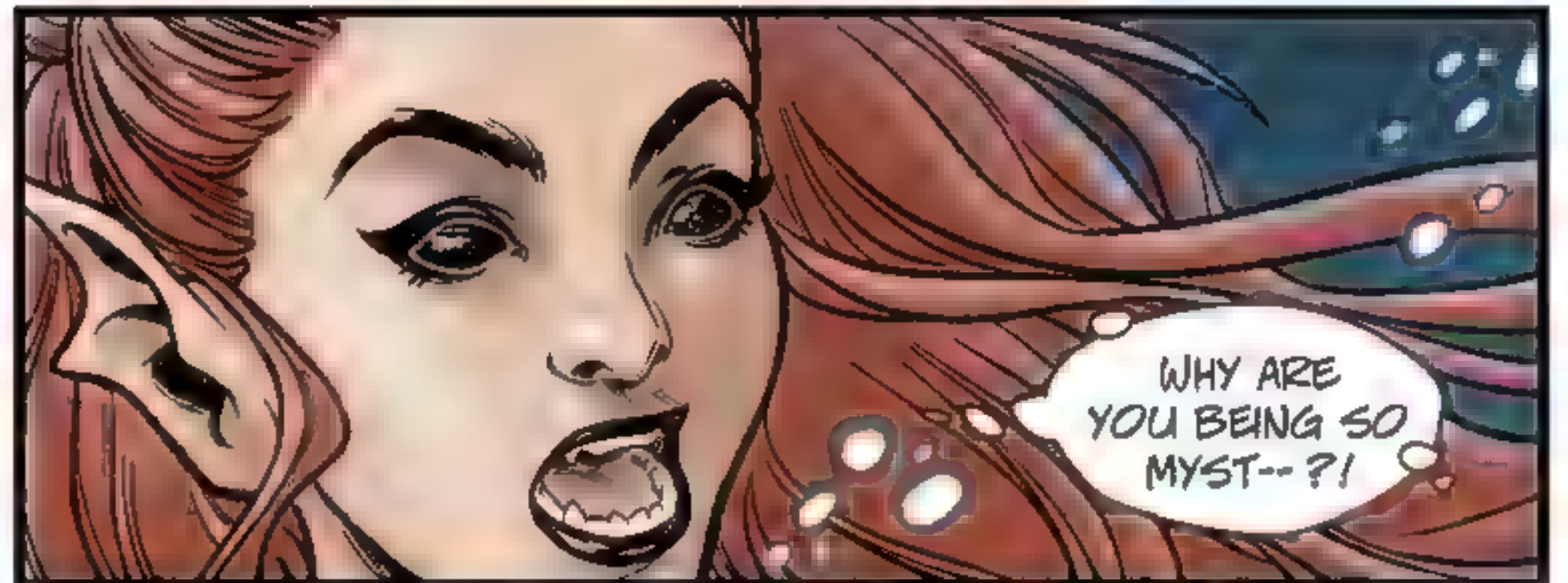
BLODUGHADDA,
ARE YOU ALONE?

OF COURSE,
BUT WHY DO
YOU ASK?



COME HERE. AND REMEMBER,
YOU MUST KEEP YOUR EMOTIONS
IN CHECK WHEN I REVEAL WHAT
I WISH TO SHOW YOU...

MOTHER?
YOU'RE MAKING
ME ALL THE MORE
CURIOUS.



WHY ARE
YOU BEING SO
MYST-- ?!

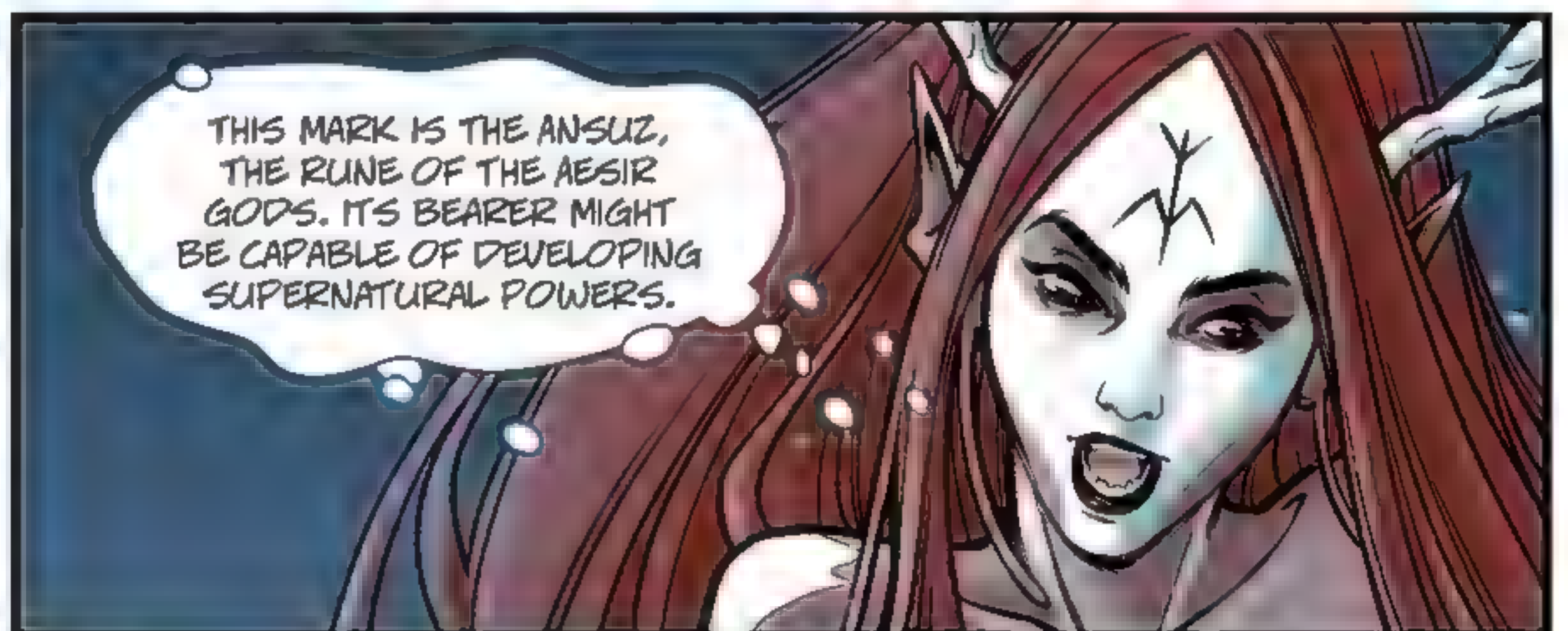


WHAT'S THAT REPUGNANT
CREATURE DOING HERE?
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TURN
IT INTO A CRAB AND FEED IT
TO THE NORSE CHILDREN?

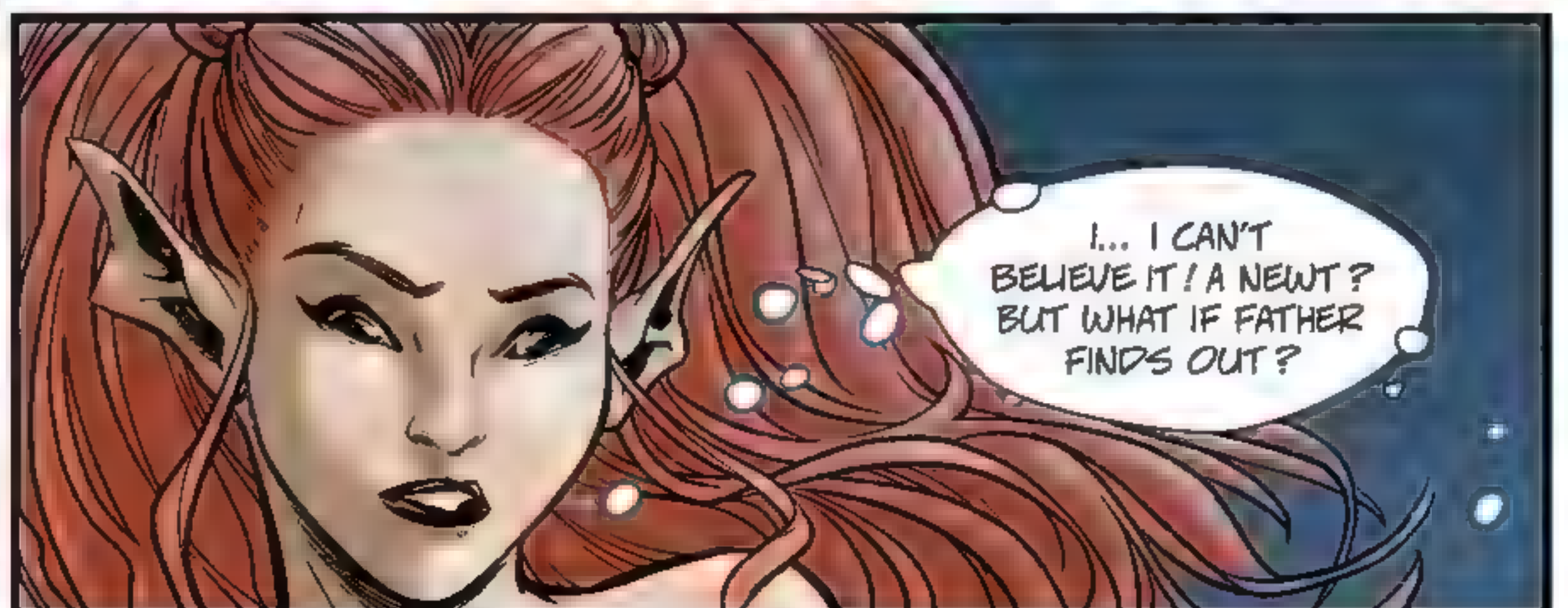


CALM DOWN. I'VE
NAMED HIM GILDWIN. HE'S
NO ORDINARY NEWT,
YOU SEE...

WHAT IS
THAT?



THIS MARK IS THE ANSUZ,
THE RUNE OF THE AESIR
GODS. ITS BEARER MIGHT
BE CAPABLE OF DEVELOPING
SUPERNATURAL POWERS.



I... I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT! A NEWT?
BUT WHAT IF FATHER
FINDS OUT?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I
NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE. I'D
LIKE YOU TO KEEP AN EYE
ON HIM, TO DISCOVER WHAT
HE IS AND WHERE HE CAME
FROM... WITHOUT AEGIR
FINDING OUT.

I... I
DON'T KNOW
IF I--

THE BONDS BETWEEN
US ARE STRONG. APART
FROM OUR BLOOD, WE
ALSO SHARE THE ART
OF MAGIC.

THAT IS WHY
YOU ARE THE *ONLY*
ONE OF YOUR
SISTERS WHOM I CAN
TRUST ENTIRELY WITH
SUCH A TASK.

THINK HOW YOU CAN
BENEFIT FROM THIS OMEN.
YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM AND
HELP HIS GIFT TO EMERGE.

AND PERHAPS DEVOTING
YOUR ENERGY TO THIS PROJECT
WILL RELIEVE YOUR BOREDOM?
I HEAR THAT YOUR SISTER UDR
HAD TO PUT UP WITH MORE OF
YOUR MISCHIEF AGAIN.

I CAN'T HELP IT.
I GET BORED IN
THIS BIG OLD
FORTRESS!

I KNOW.
SO YOU SHOULD
JUMP AT THIS CHANCE.

NEWT'S HAVE A MUCH SHORTER
LIFESPAN THAN WE DO, AND THEY AGE
A LOT QUICKER. IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME,
HE SHOULD REACH PUBERTY, AND HIS
POWERS SHOULD MANIFEST.

HOW CAN YOU
BE SURE?

BECAUSE, UP UNTIL NOW,
ONLY TWO BEINGS HAVE EVER
CARRIED THIS MARK...

...AND YOU'RE
THE OTHER ONE,
BLODUGHADDA.

SEVERAL MONTHS LATER...

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

FOR SOME AIR! AFTER
ALL THAT MEAD, I FEEL
LIKE MY HEAD'S STUCK
BETWEEN VILUNDR'S
HAMMER AND ANVIL!

HAHAHAHA!

YOU'RE MAD, GEIRULF!
YOU'LL SLIP AND
BREAK YOUR NECK!

GET LOST,
YNGVI!

I JUST WANT
TO HAVE A QUIET
PISS, BY ODIN!

Jeg ved det
det er læg og lag
AAAAAAH...

er grønne
bølger
lag på lag

GH...

ej bygge
spurve
der på

I'M SO THIRSTY
I COULD DRINK
TYRIFJORDEN DRY / I'M
GOING BACK. HE CAN
COME AND JOIN US
WHEN HE'S FINI--

WHAT IN
THE... ?

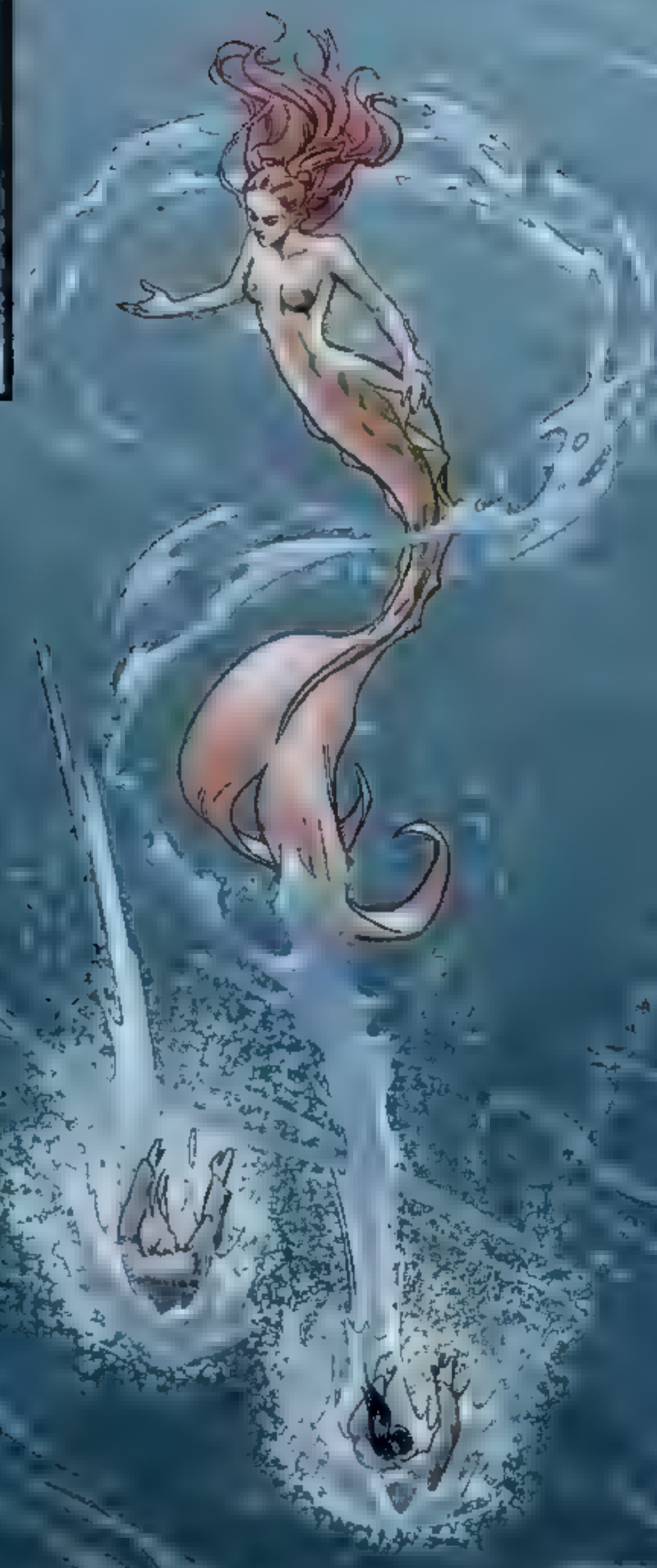
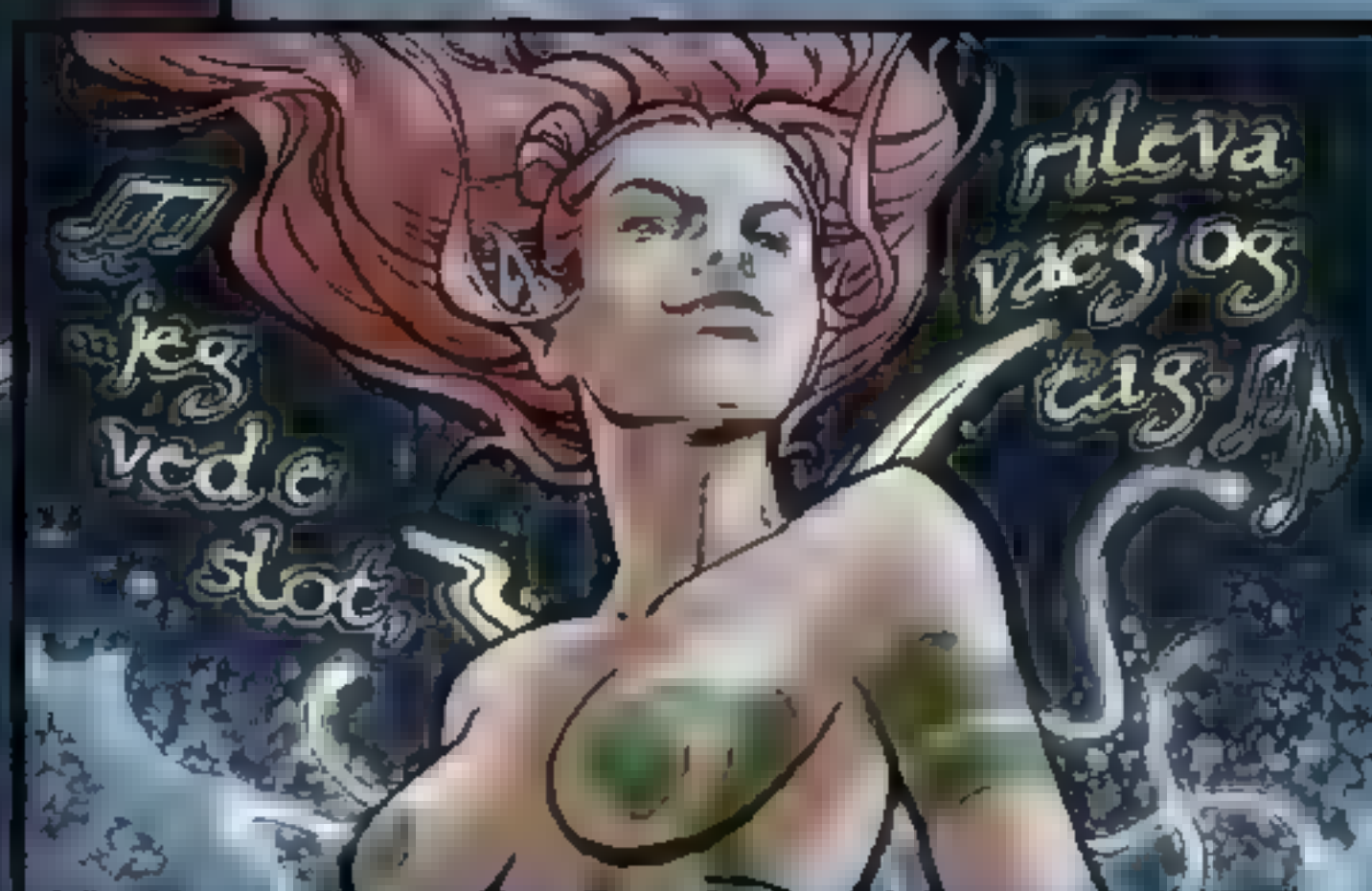


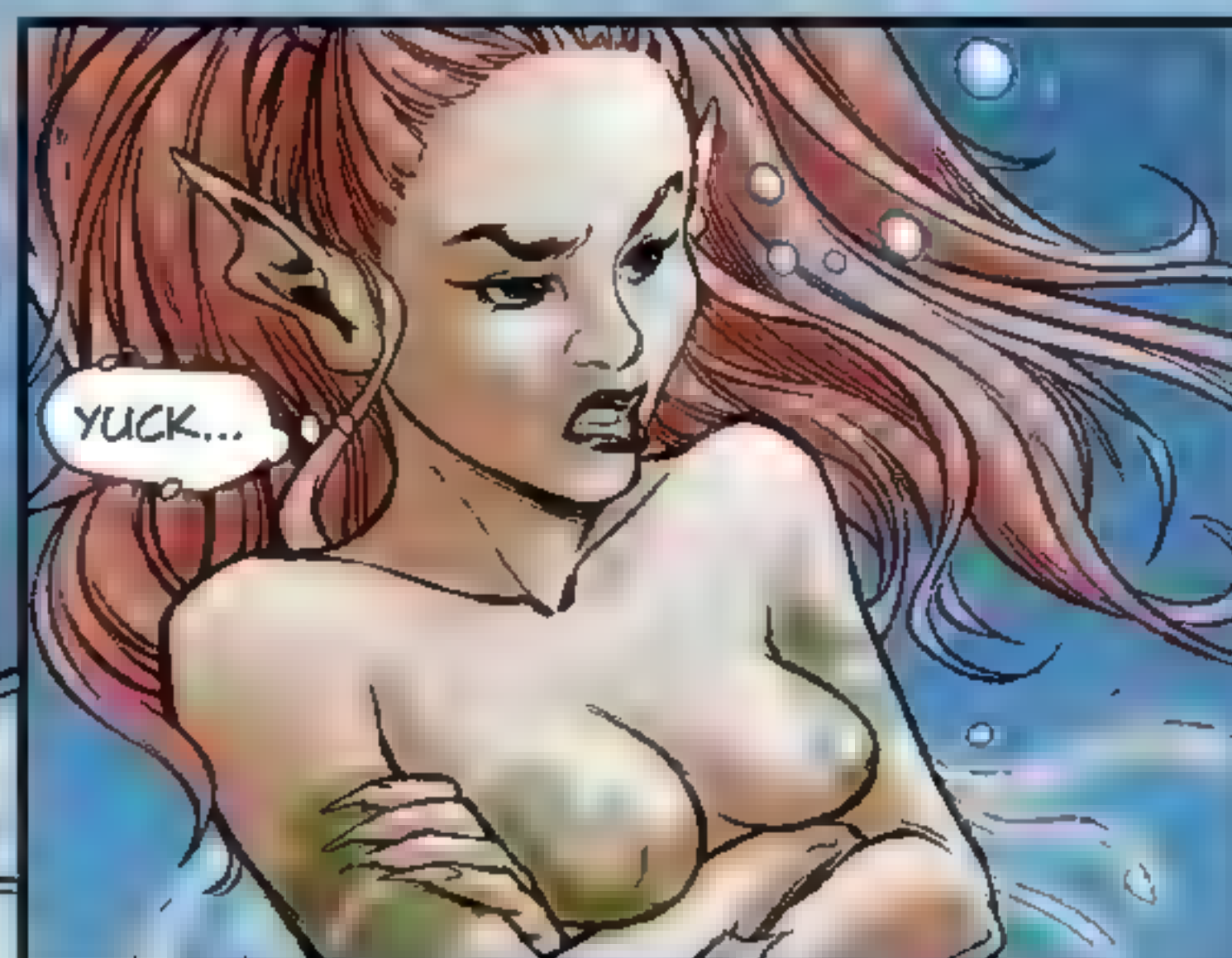
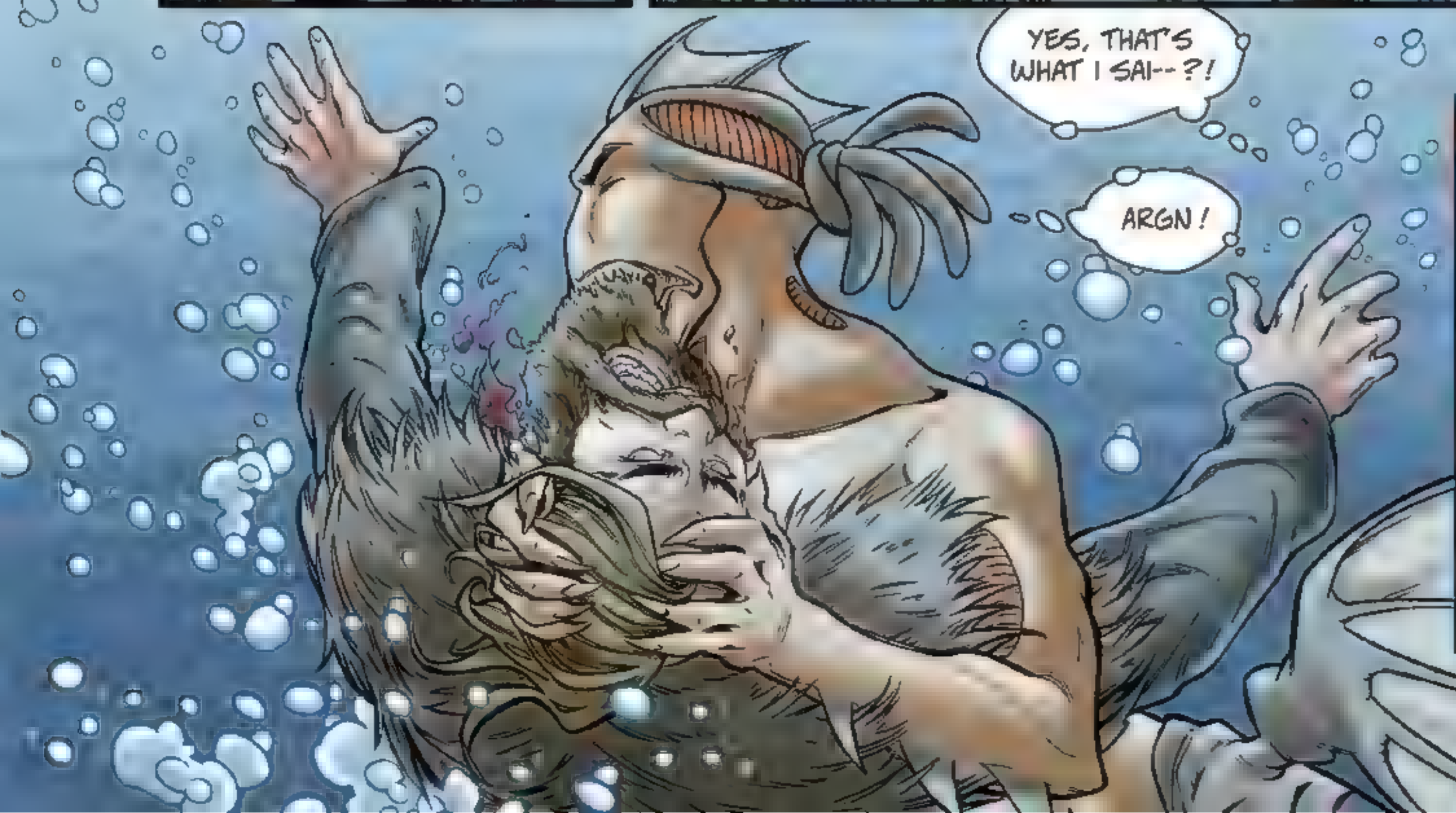
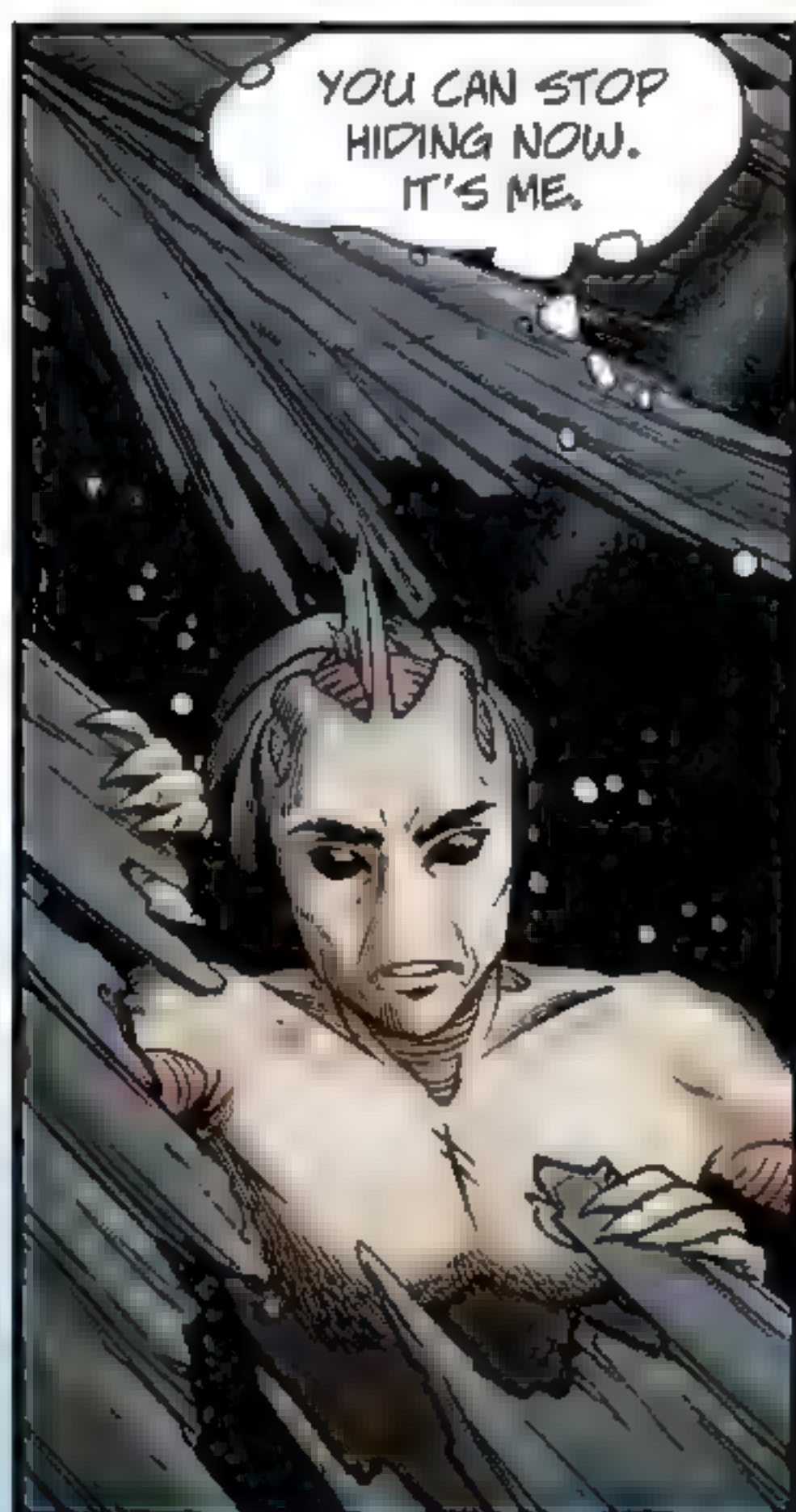
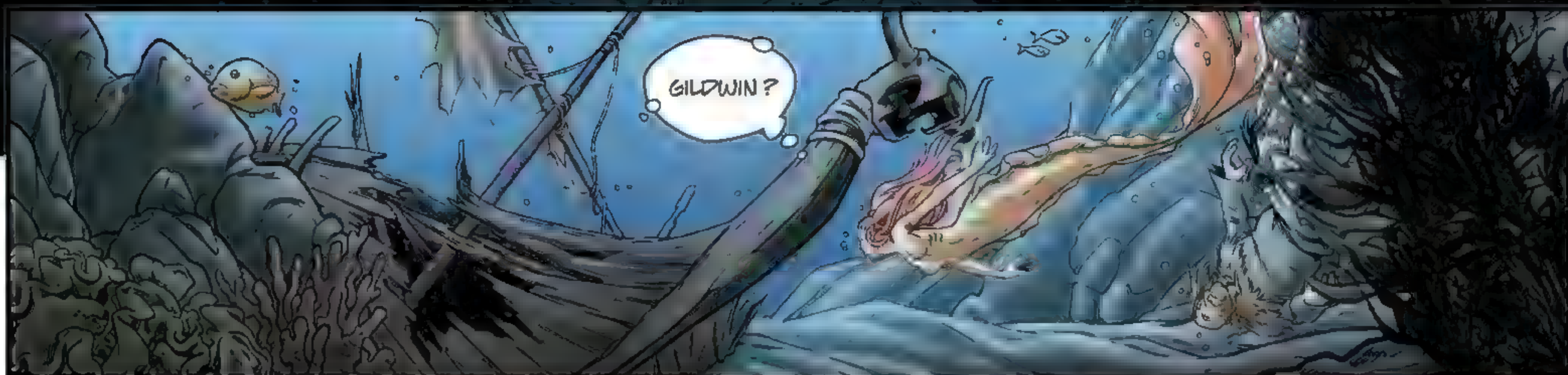
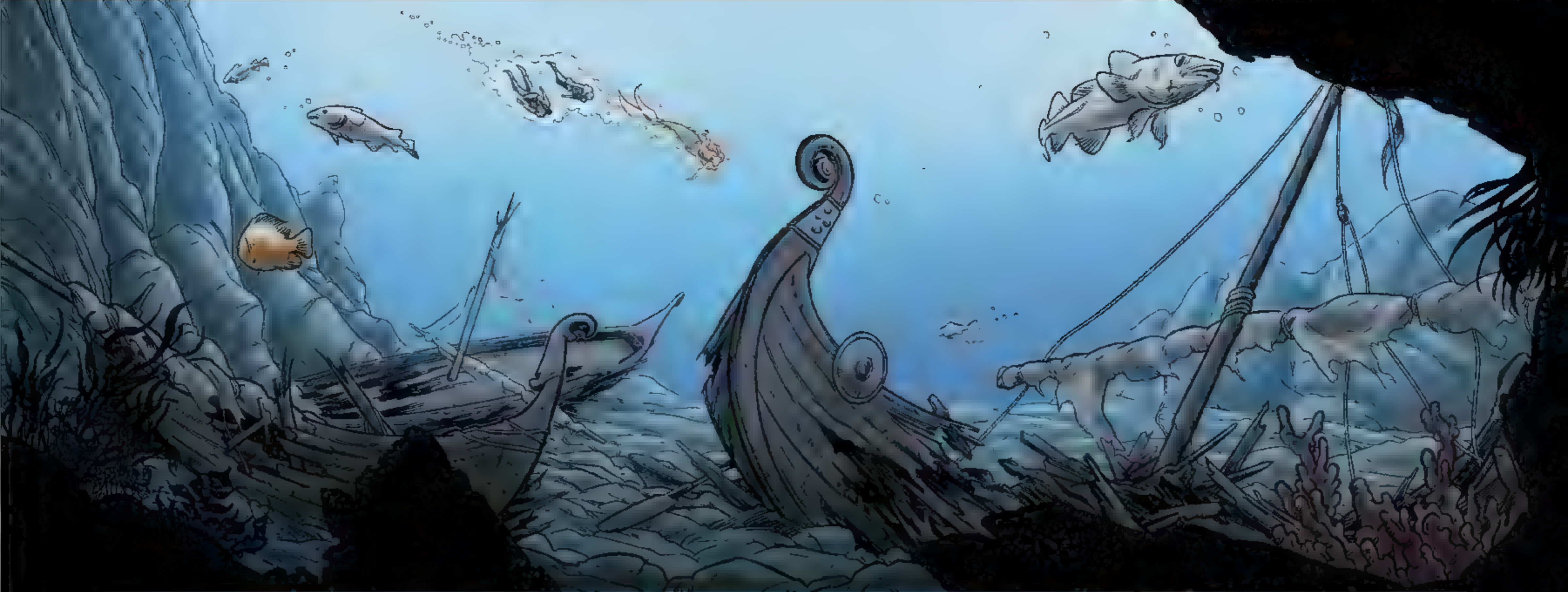


WHAT IS THAT LAMENT?

WHERE'S IT FROM?

IT'S... IT'S HER! I RECOGNIZE HER!







APPROACH, ELDIR,
FAITHFUL SERVANT.

I SHALL BE FOREVER
LOYAL TO YOU, MY KING.

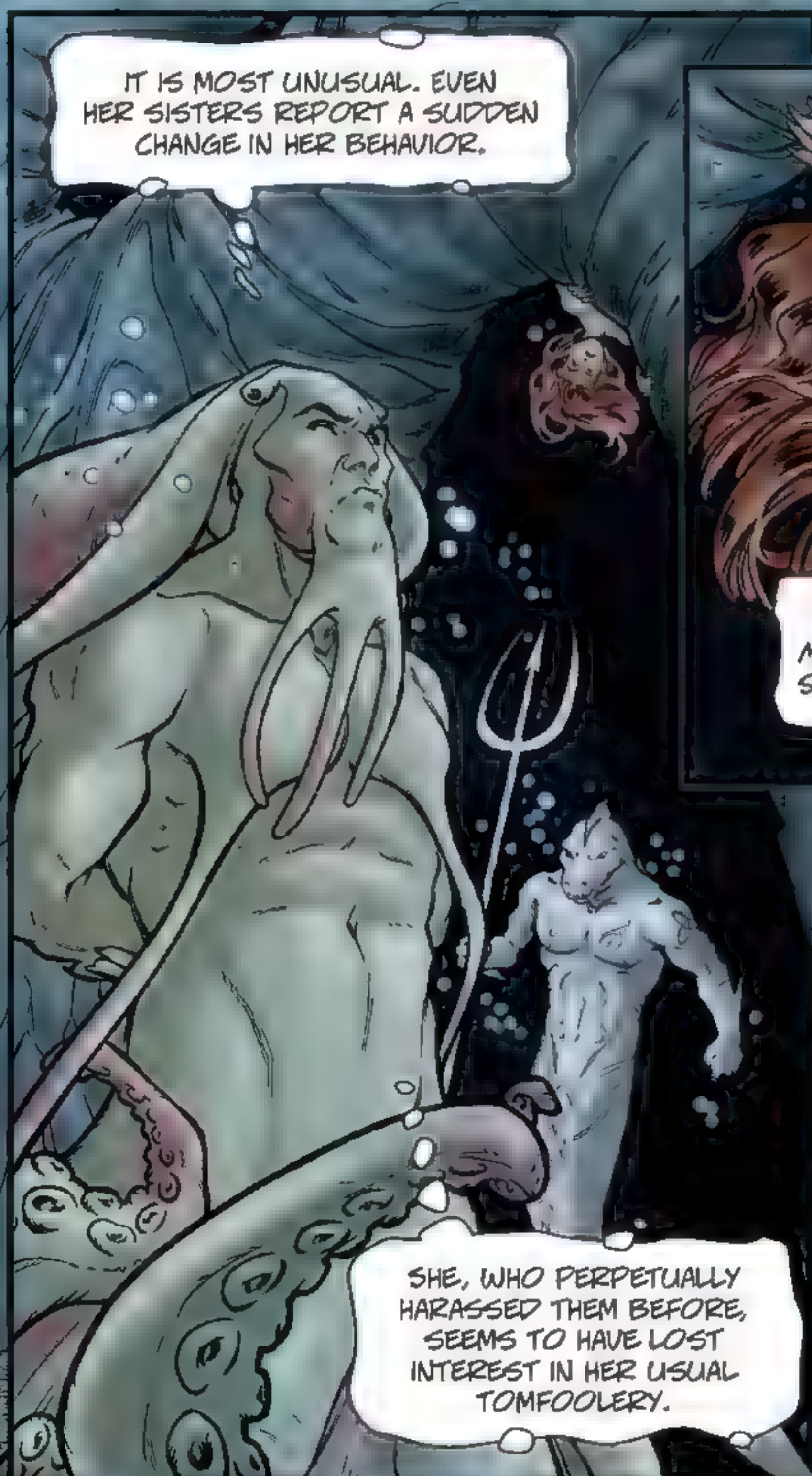


"IT CONCERNS
MY DAUGHTER..."

"...BLODUGHADDA."

I'VE NOT SEEN HER
FOR MORE THAN A LUNAR
CYCLE. DO YOU HAPPEN
TO KNOW ANYTHING?

NOTHING, MY LORD.
HOWEVER, I HAVE SEEN HER
LURKING CLOSE TO RAN'S
SANCTUARY RECENTLY.



IT IS MOST UNUSUAL. EVEN
HER SISTERS REPORT A SUDDEN
CHANGE IN HER BEHAVIOR.



"PERHAPS YOU'VE
MANAGED TO MAKE HER
SEE SENSE, MY LORD?"



"I DOUBT IT. SHE GOES
MISSING FOR HOURS ON
END... I'M WORRIED ABOUT
THE SITUATION, ELDIR."

I'D LIKE YOU TO WATCH HER
CLOSELY. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT SHE
GETS UP TO OUTSIDE THE PALACE.



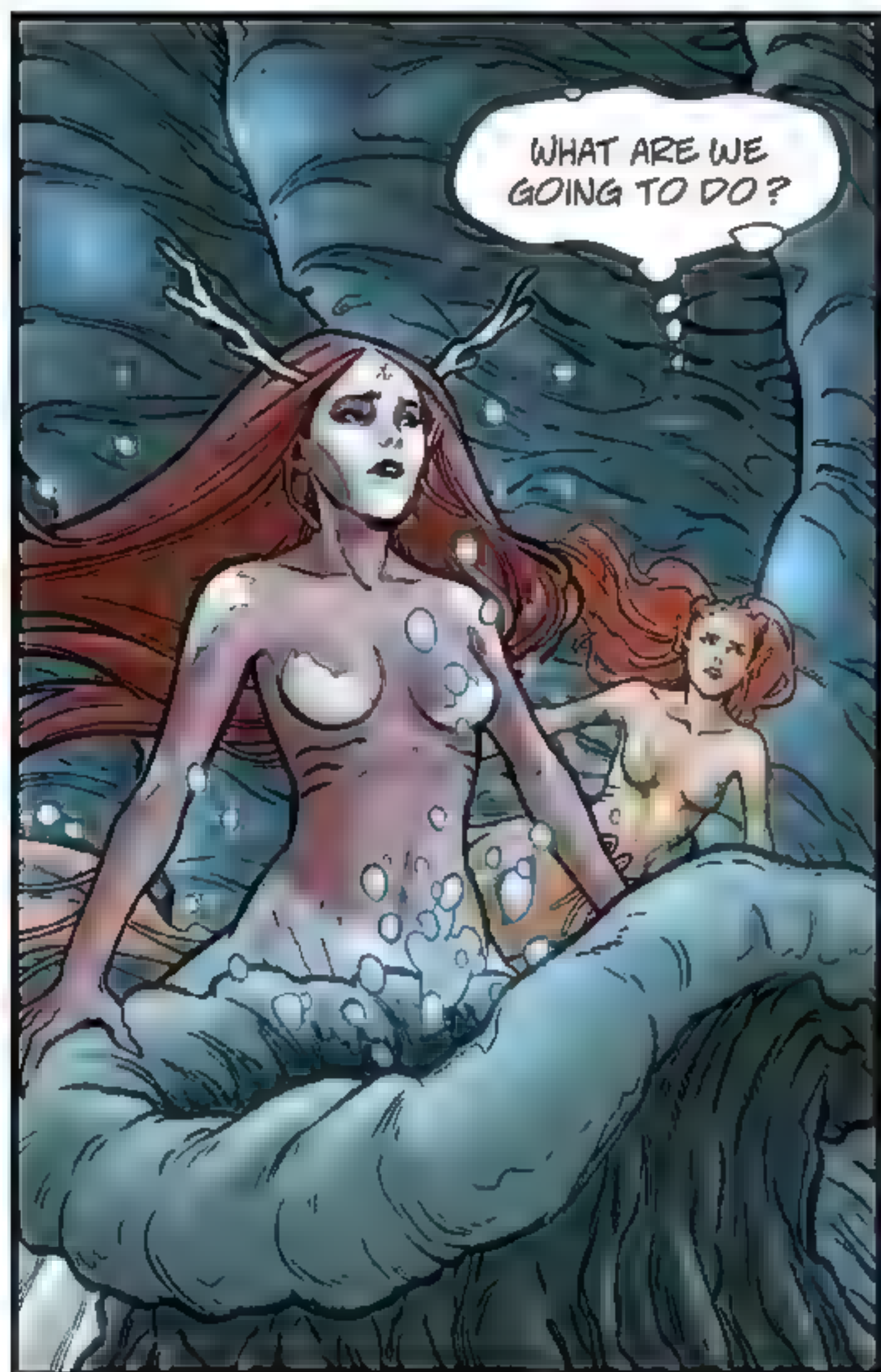
SHE, WHO PERPETUALLY
HARASSED THEM BEFORE,
SEEMS TO HAVE LOST
INTEREST IN HER USUAL
TOMFOOLERY.

YOUR WISH IS MY
COMMAND, MASTER.



WE NEED TO BE DOUBLY CAREFUL NOW.

MY ABSENCE HAS AROUSED FATHER'S SUSPICIONS. IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THAT DISGUSTING SHARK, ELDIR, STICKS HIS SNOUT INTO OUR BUSINESS.



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

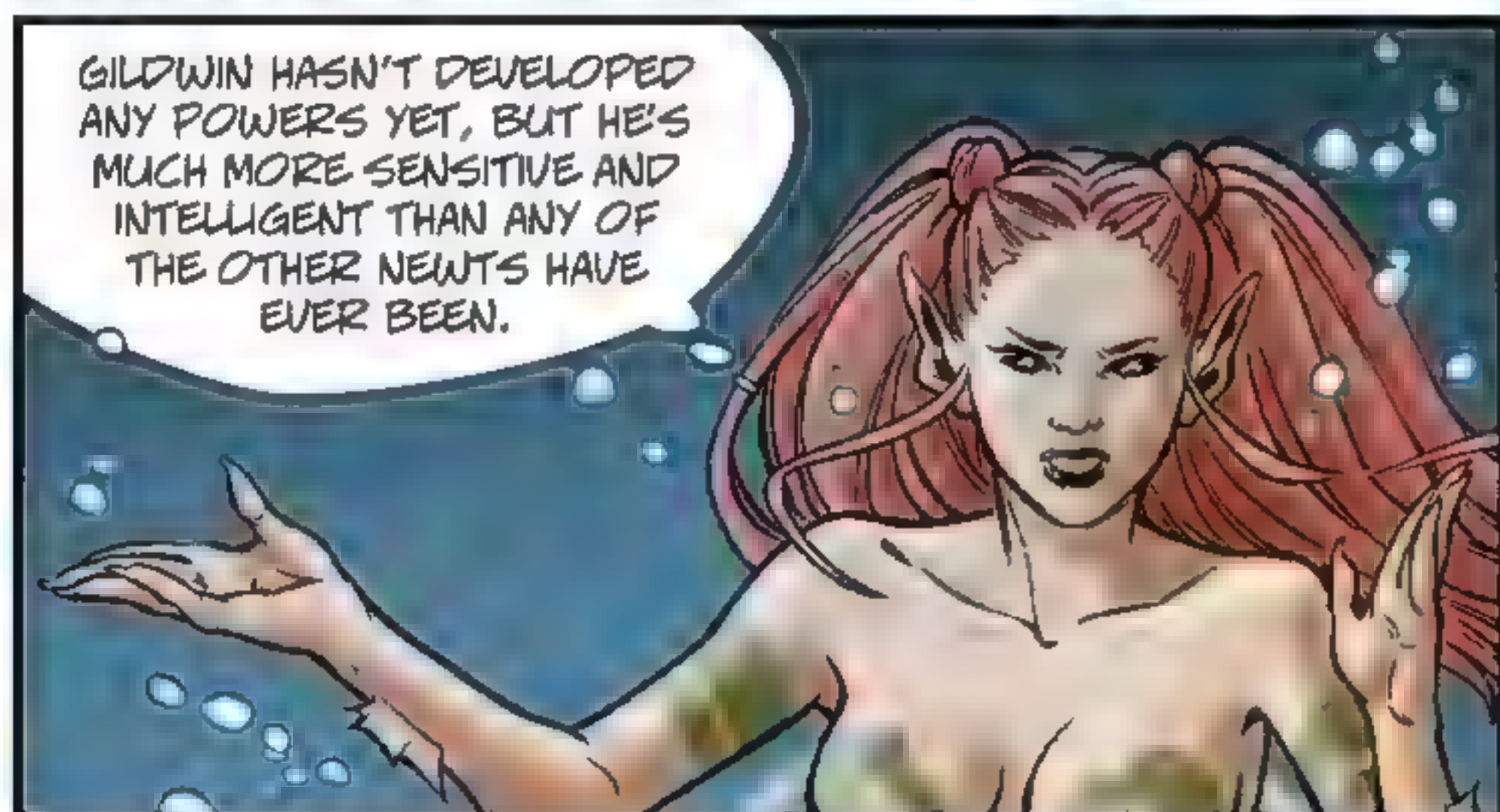


IT'S GETTING TOO DANGEROUS. THE NEWT HAS NOT DISPLAYED SIGNS OF ANY SUPERNATURAL GIFTS. I'M STARTING TO THINK I MAY HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN.

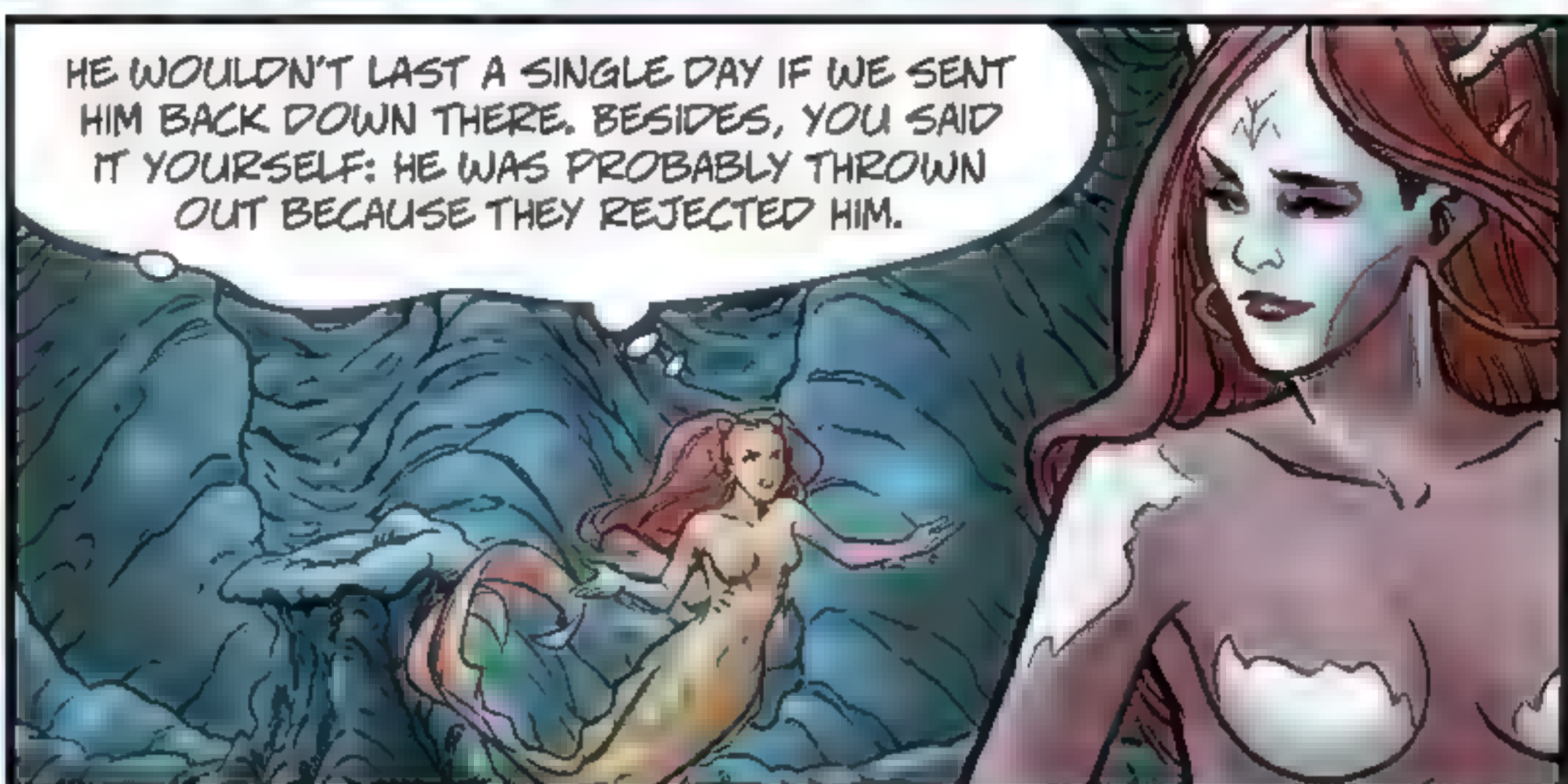


WE MUST RESIGN OURSELVES TO SENDING HIM TO THE CAVE WITH THE OTHER NEWTS.

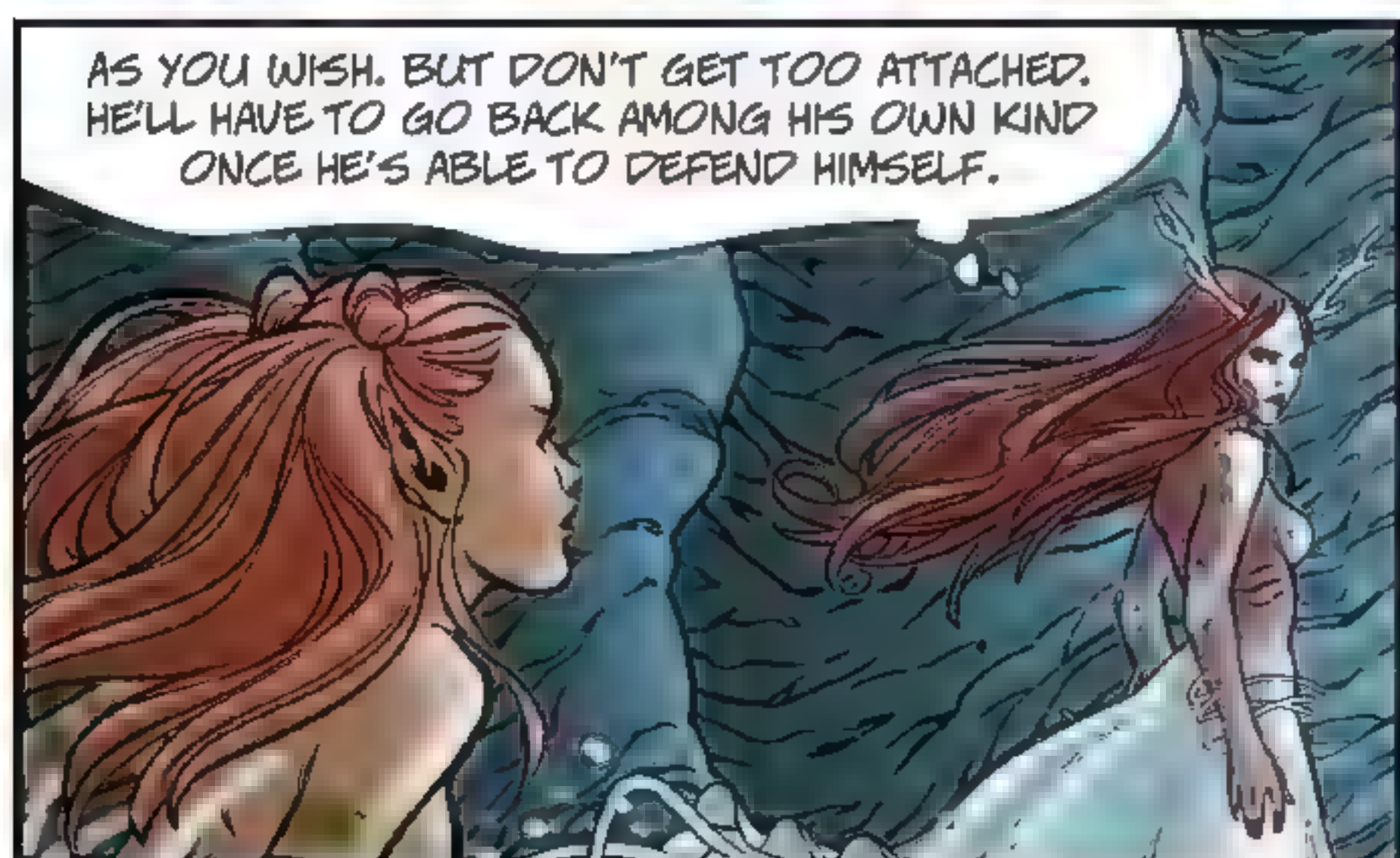
NO! GIVE HIM A LITTLE MORE TIME. I'M NOT AFRAID OF FATHER, AND I CAN EASILY TAKE CARE OF ELDIR.



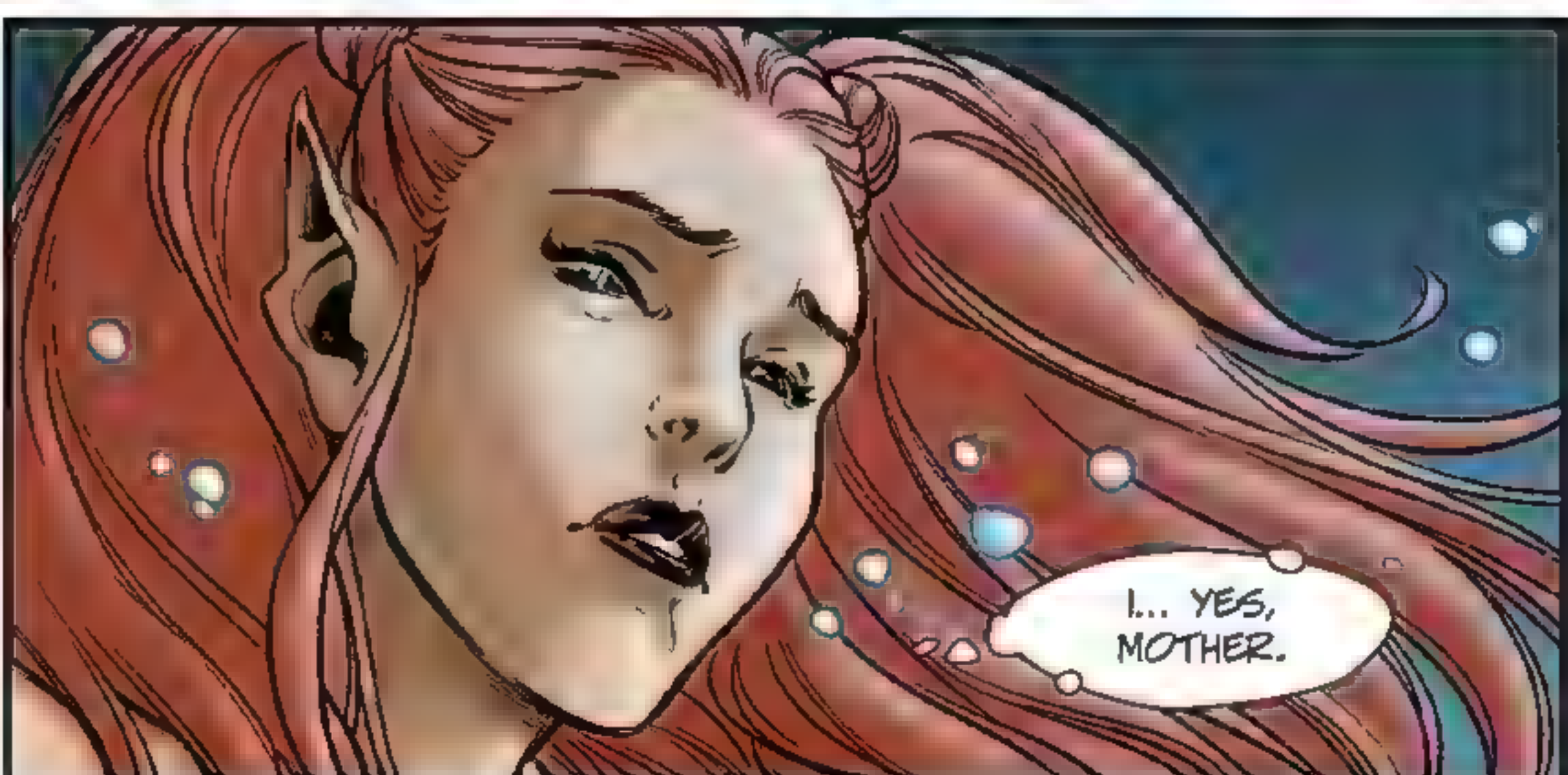
GILDWIN HASN'T DEVELOPED ANY POWERS YET, BUT HE'S MUCH MORE SENSITIVE AND INTELLIGENT THAN ANY OF THE OTHER NEWTS HAVE EVER BEEN.



HE WOULDN'T LAST A SINGLE DAY IF WE SENT HIM BACK DOWN THERE. BESIDES, YOU SAID IT YOURSELF: HE WAS PROBABLY THROWN OUT BECAUSE THEY REJECTED HIM.



AS YOU WISH. BUT DON'T GET TOO ATTACHED. HE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK AMONG HIS OWN KIND ONCE HE'S ABLE TO DEFEND HIMSELF.

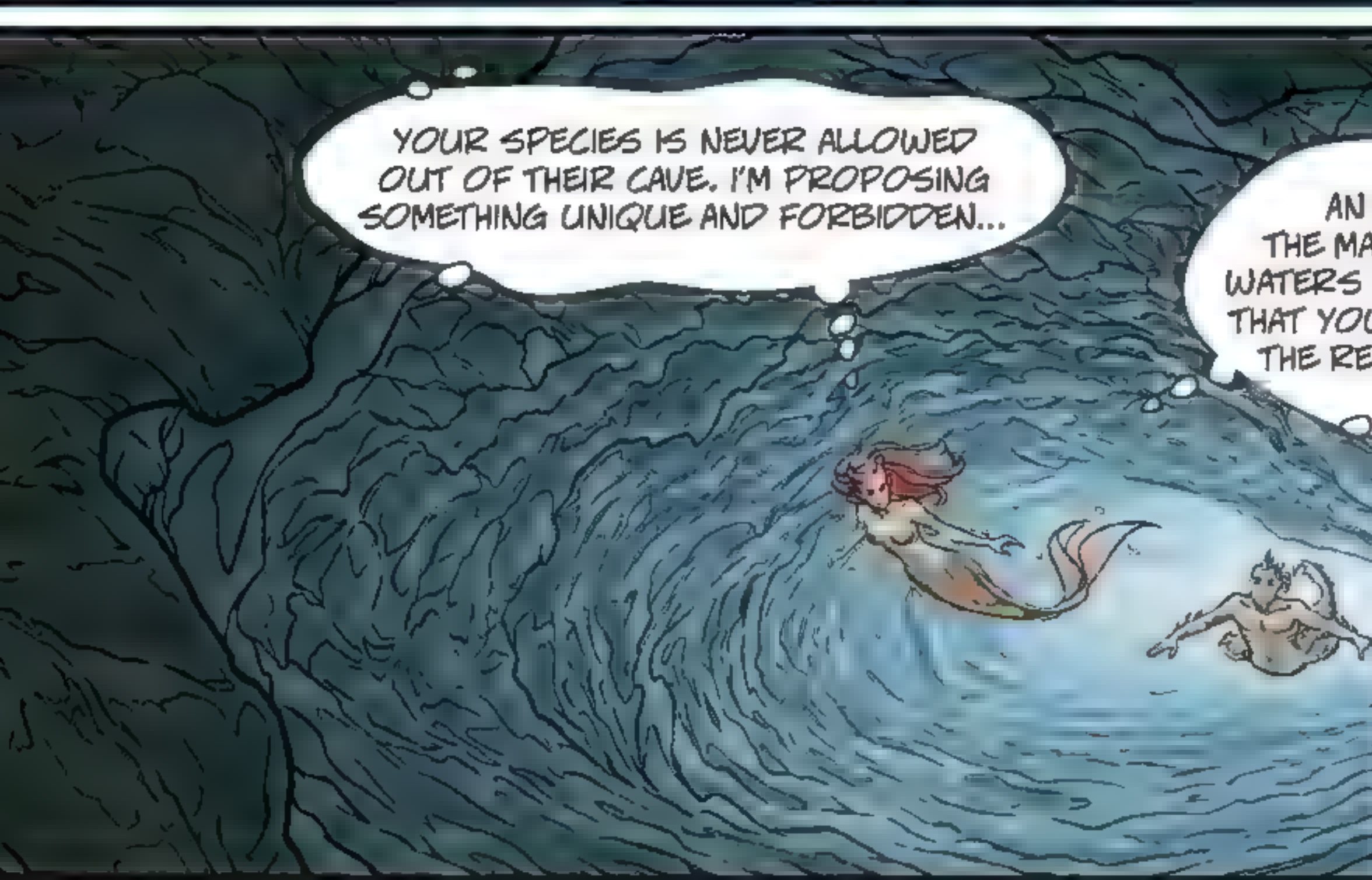


I... YES, MOTHER.



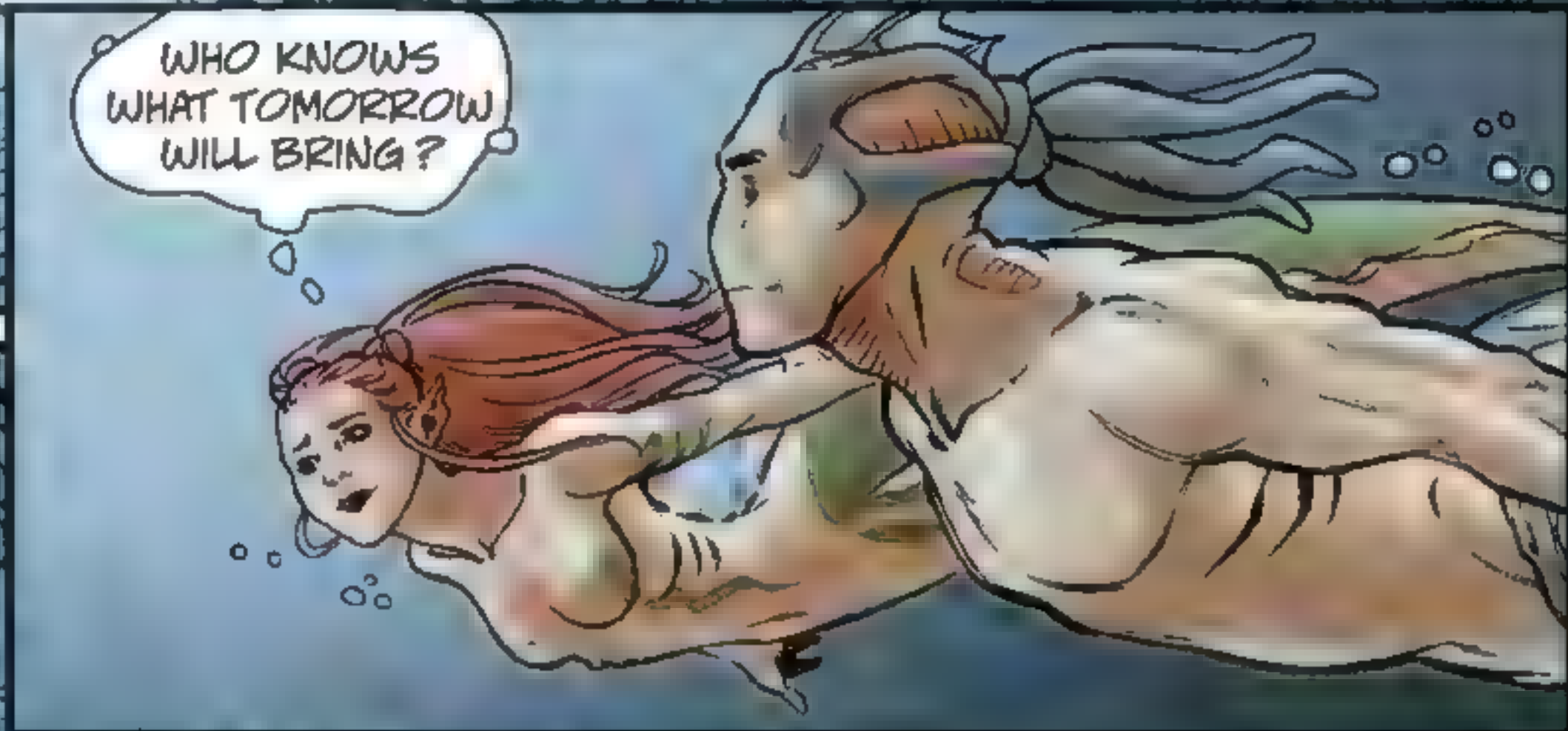
BLODUGHADDA
TAKE GILDWIN FAR
FROM HOME...

DON'T YOU WANT TO SWIM
FREELY WHEREVER YOU WANT
AND DISCOVER THE VAST
KINGDOM OF THE SEA?



YOUR SPECIES IS NEVER ALLOWED
OUT OF THEIR CAVE. I'M PROPOSING
SOMETHING UNIQUE AND FORBIDDEN...

AN ADVENTURE IN
THE MAJESTIC, ICE-COLD
WATERS OF SOGNEFJORDEN
THAT YOU'LL REMEMBER FOR
THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

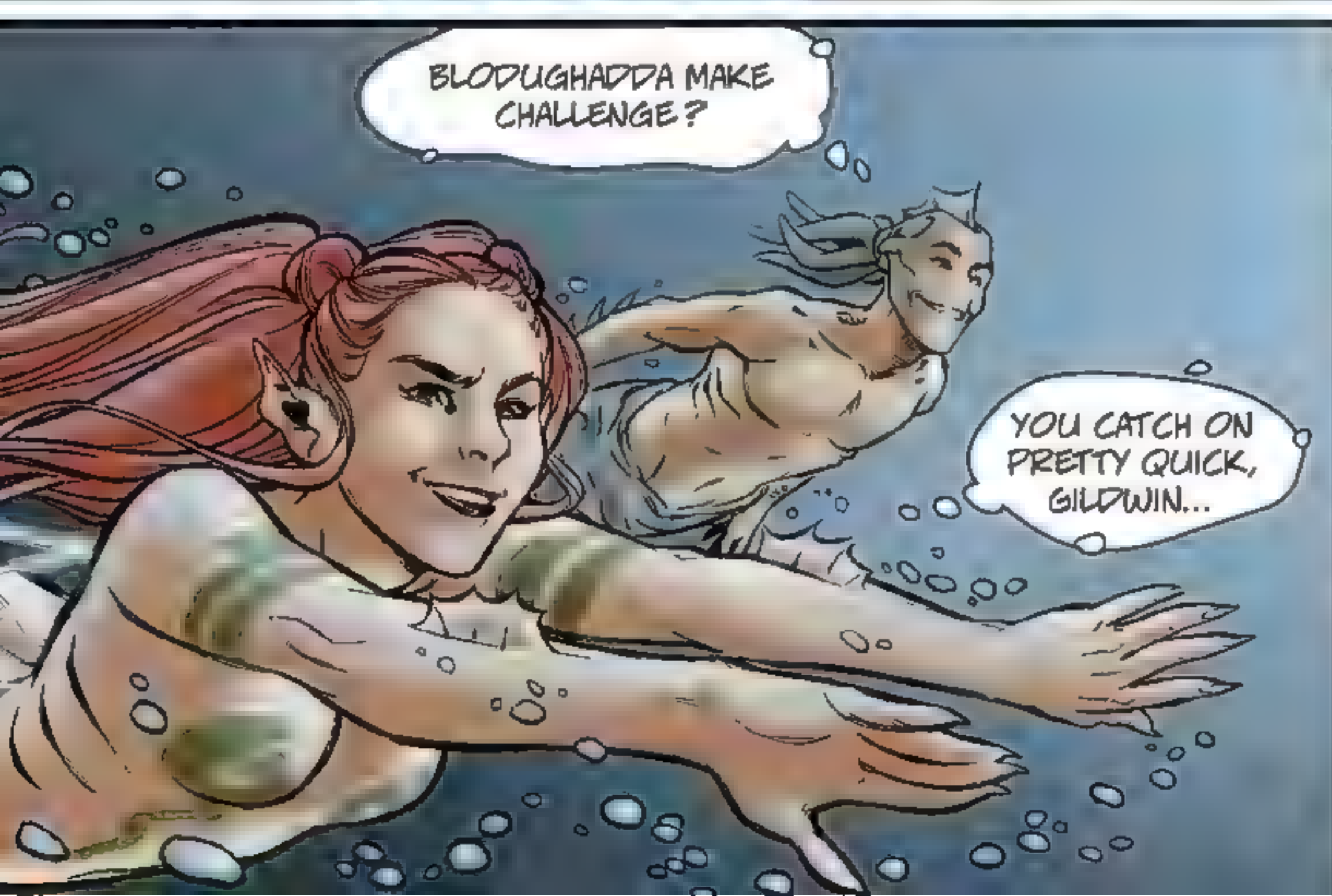


WHO KNOWS
WHAT TOMORROW
WILL BRING?



THANKS,
BLODUGHADDA.
GILDWIN GLAD.

ENOUGH TO SWIM
TO THAT OPENING
FASTER THAN ME?

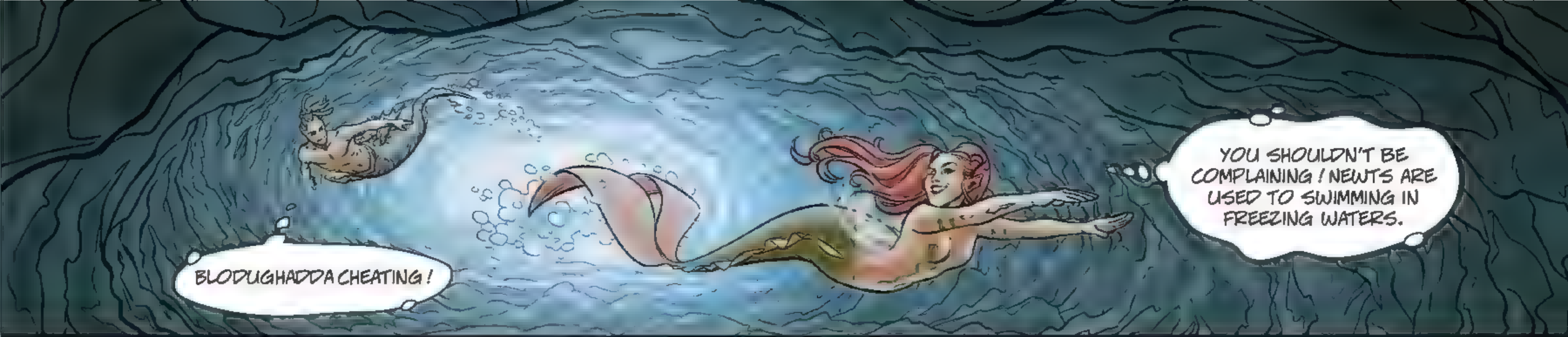


BLODUGHADDA MAKE
CHALLENGE?

YOU CATCH ON
PRETTY QUICK,
GILDWIN...



BUT YOU TALK
TOO MUCH!



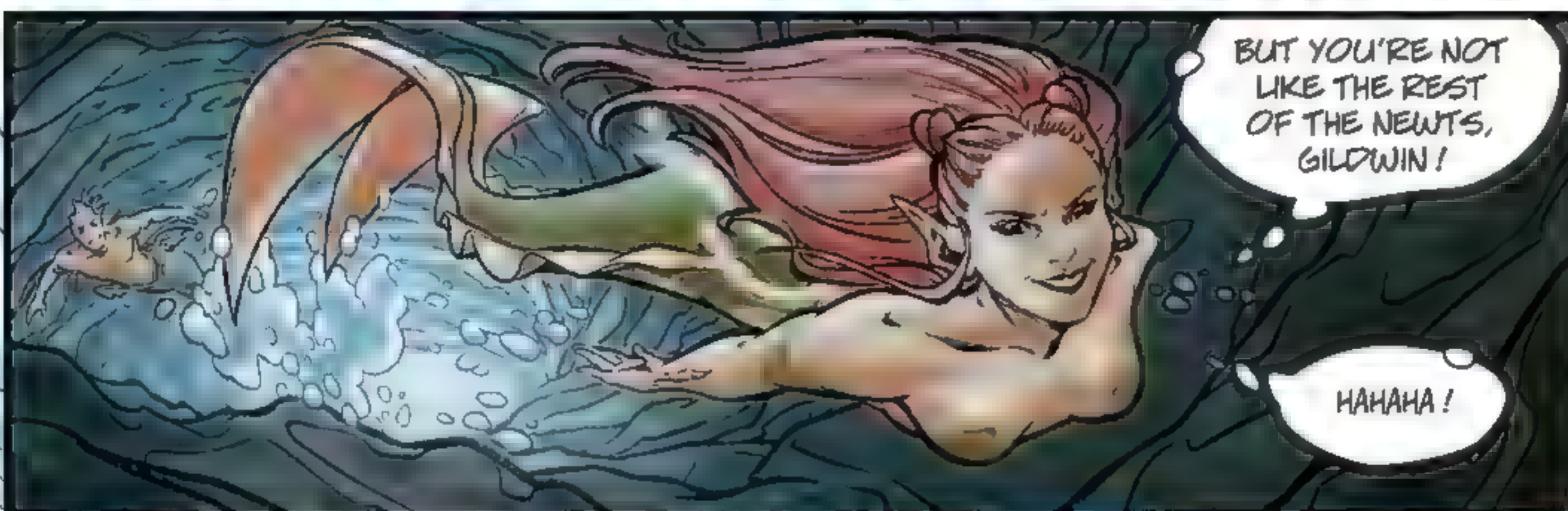
BLODUGHADDA CHEATING!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE
COMPLAINING! NEWTS ARE
USED TO SWIMMING IN
FREEZING WATERS.



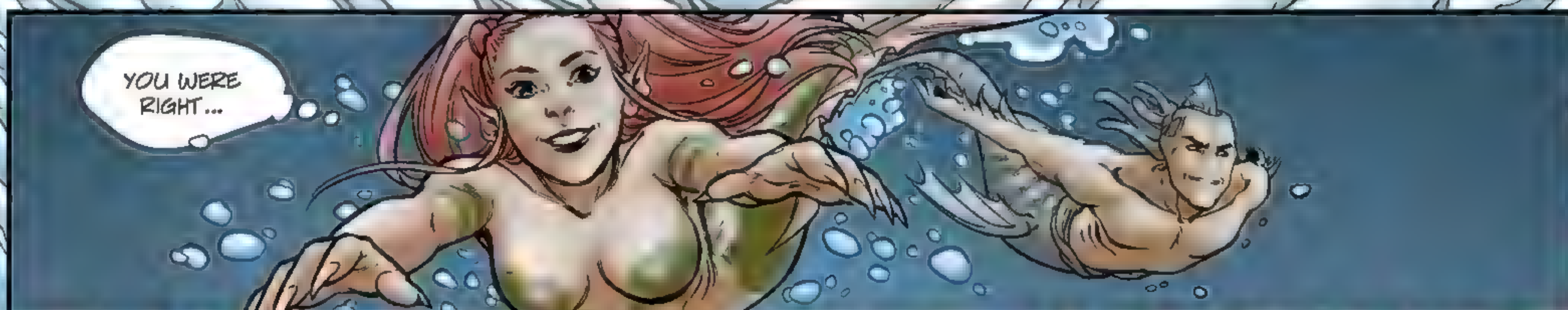
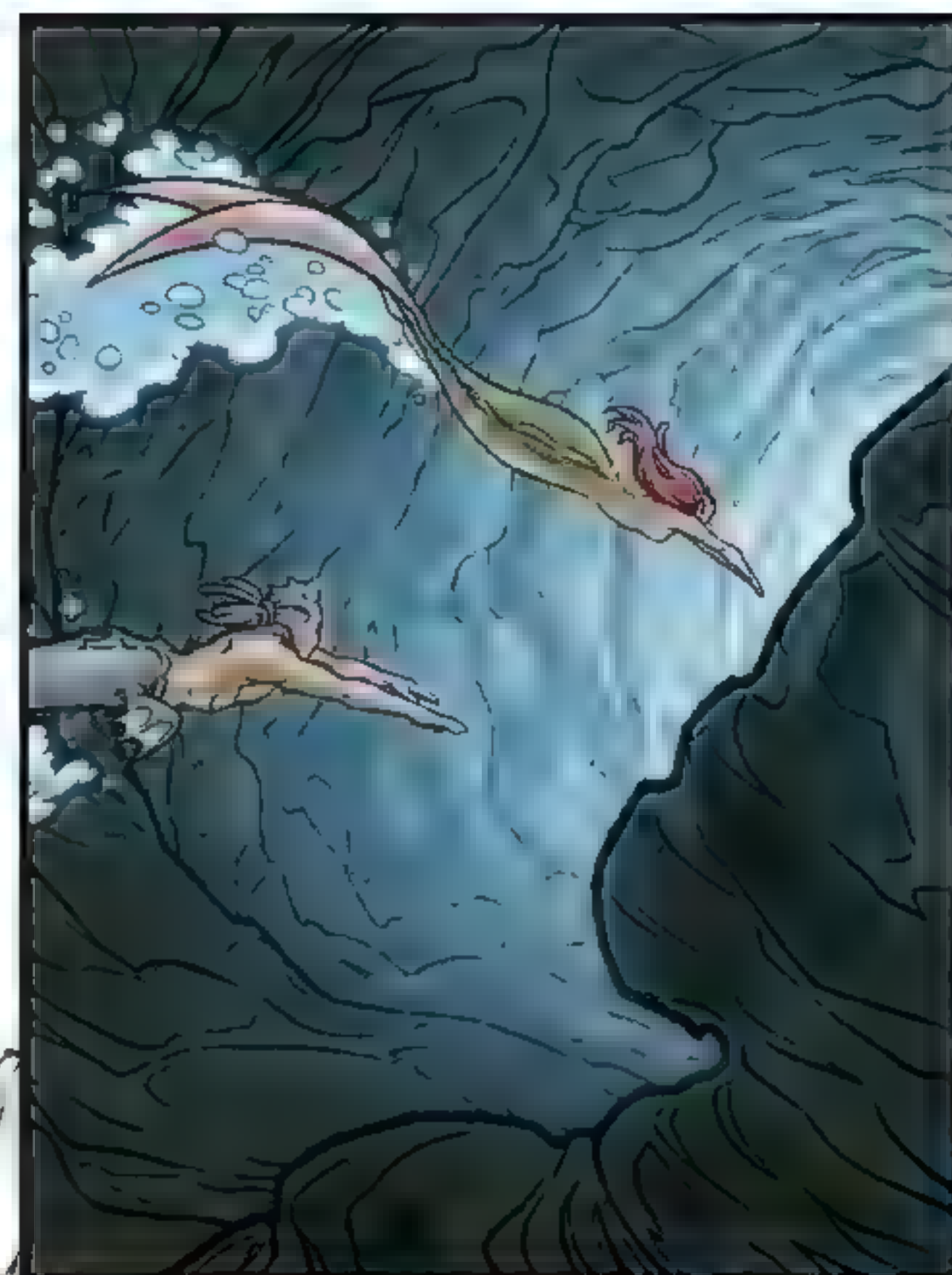
YOU
HAVE THE
ADVANTAGE
OVER ME!

NEWT'S NOT SWIM
FAST LIKE SIRENS!

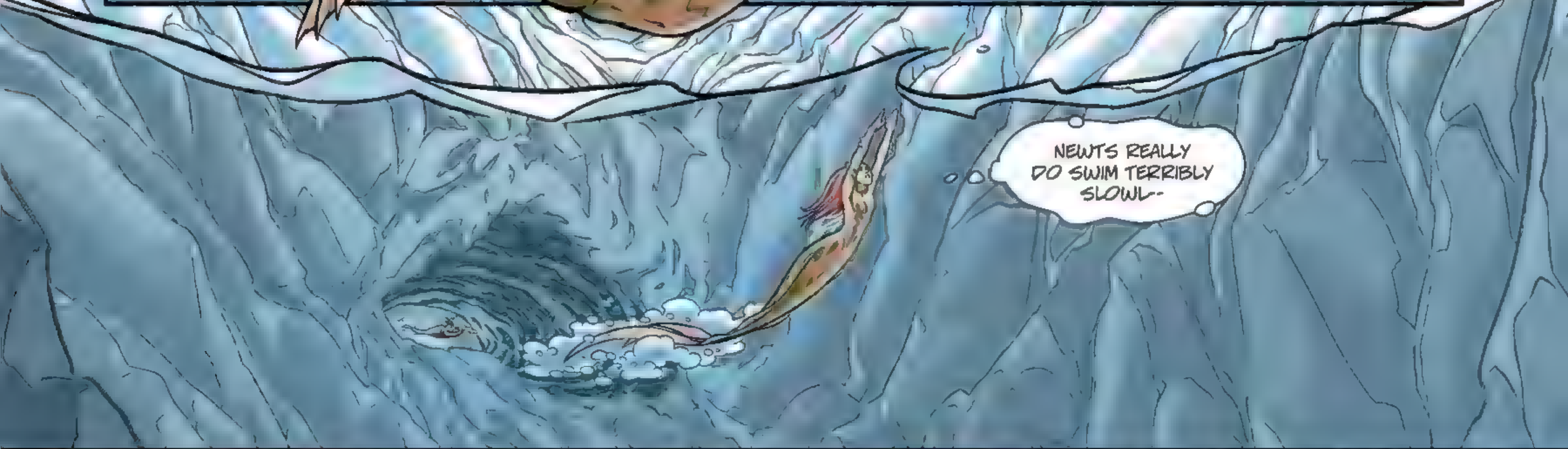


BUT YOU'RE NOT
LIKE THE REST
OF THE NEWTS,
GILDWIN!

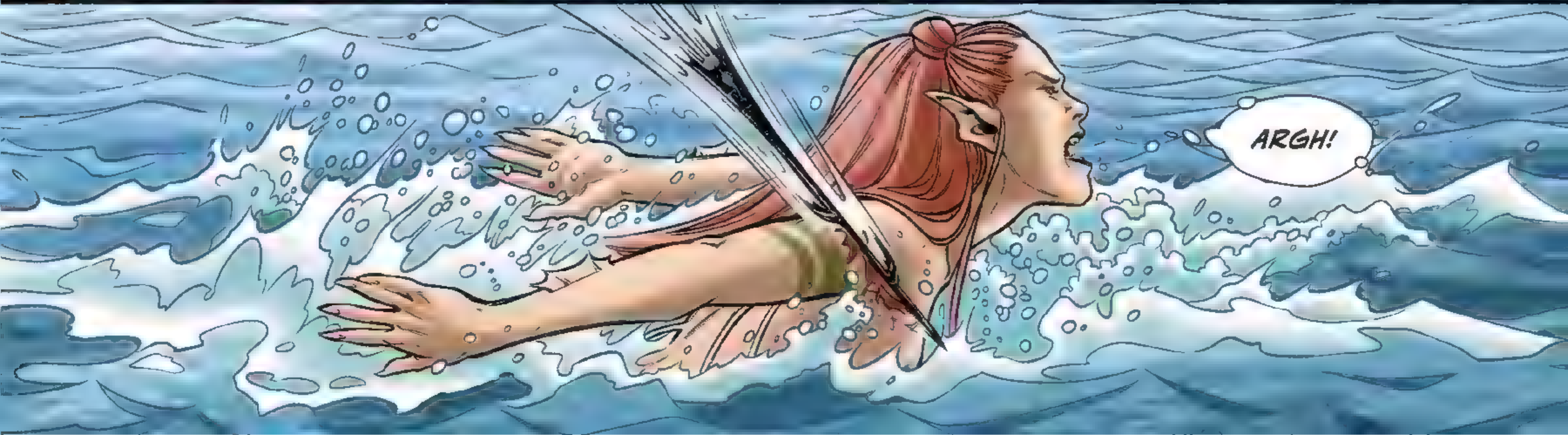
HAHAHA!



YOU WERE
RIGHT...



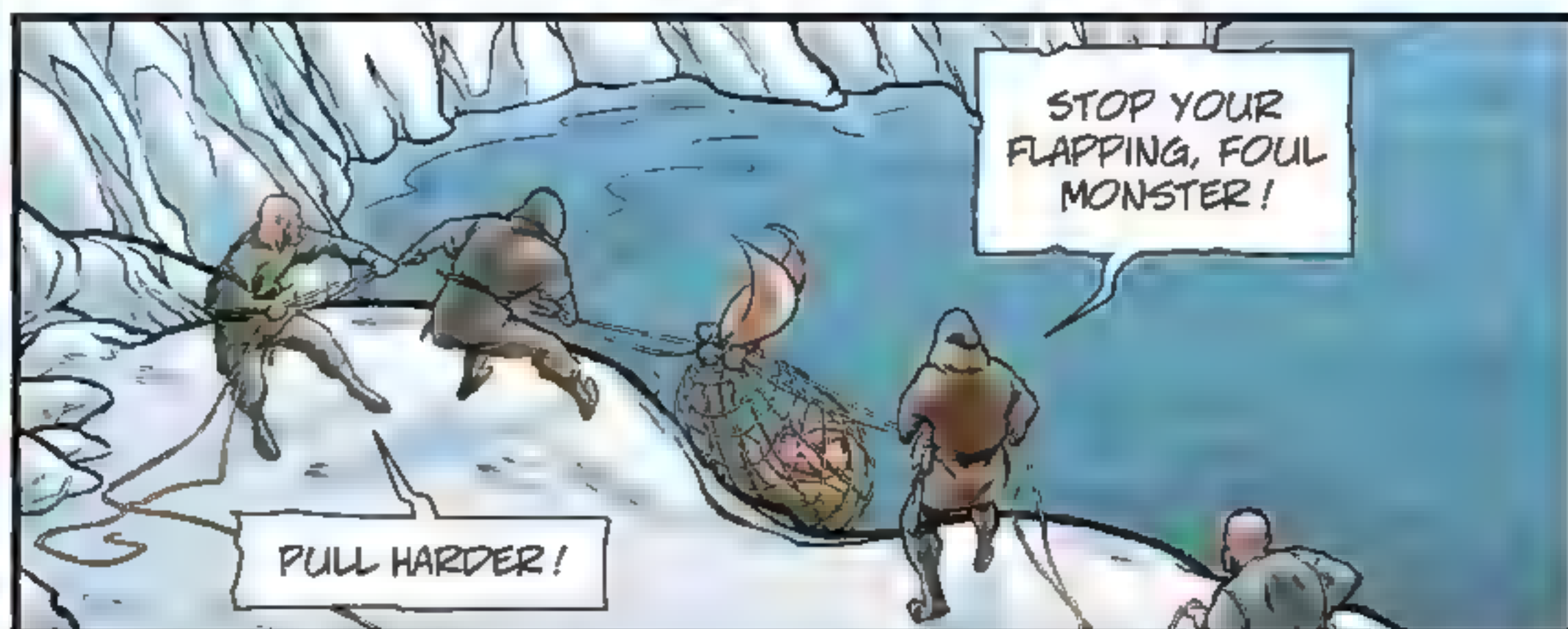
NEWT'S REALLY
DO SWIM TERRIBLY
SLOW--



ARGH!

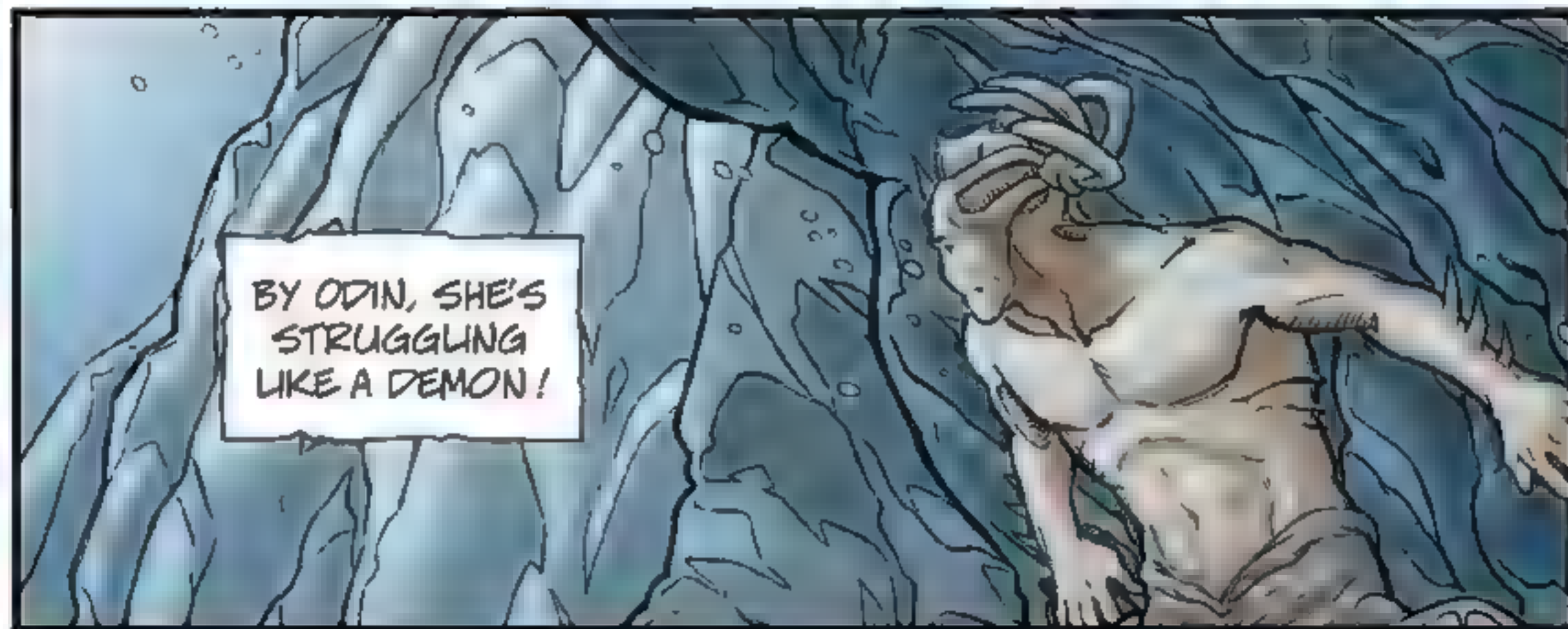


WE GOT HER!

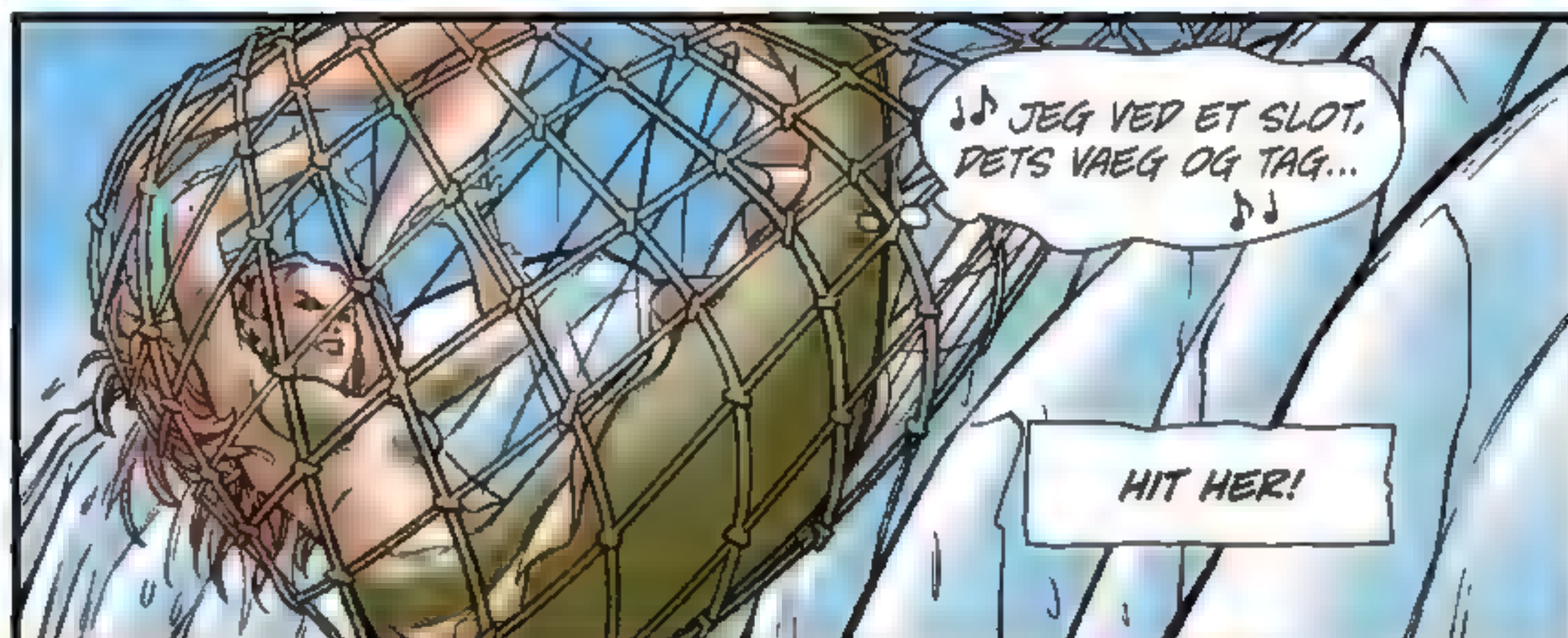


STOP YOUR
FLAPPING, FOUL
MONSTER!

PULL HARDER!

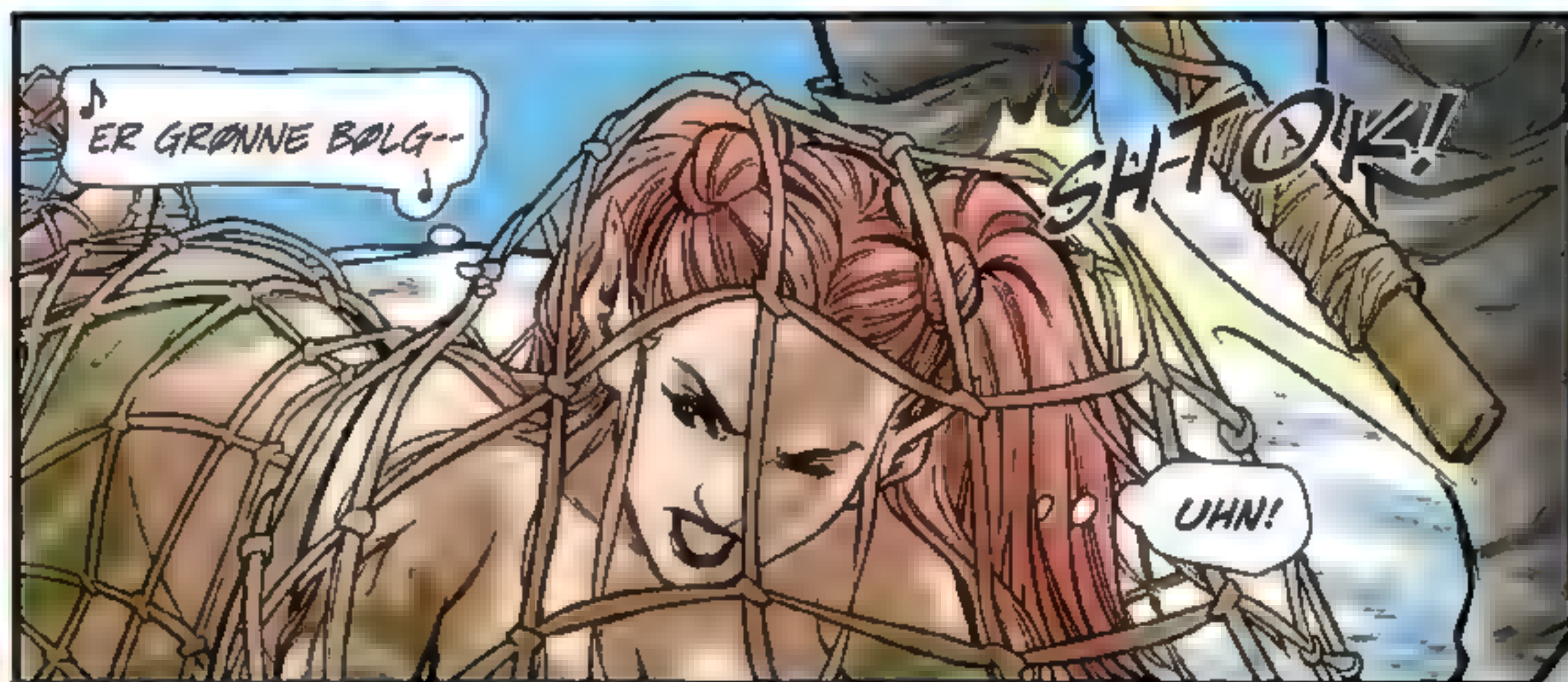


BY ODIN, SHE'S
STRUGGLING
LIKE A DEMON!



♪ JEG VED ET SLOT,
DETS VAEG OG TAG...
♪

HIT HER!



♪ ER GRØNNE BØLG...

SH-OK!

UHN!



DAMNED SHE-DEVIL!

THESE CRITTERS
ARE TOUGH!

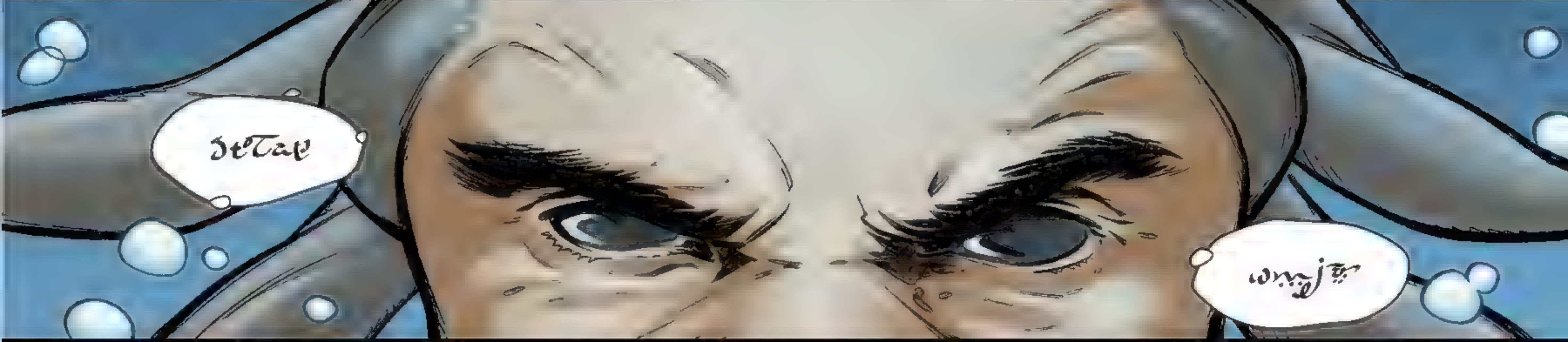
LET'S FINISH HER
OFF QUICK. I'M NOT
TAKING ANY CHANCES.



B-BLODUGHADDA...



"NOOO!"



detav

winje



drvrt

WHAT EVIL IS THIS?

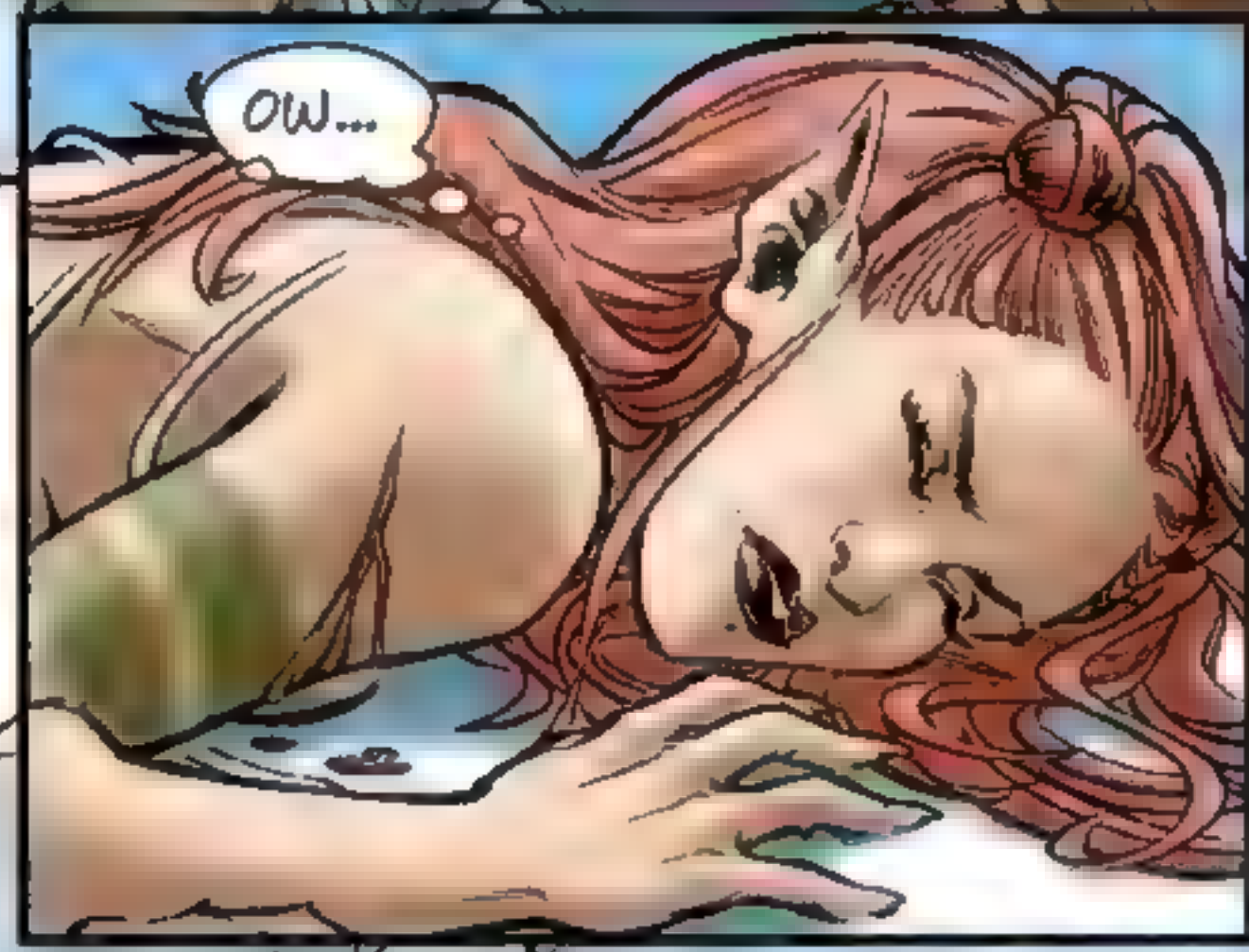
OWW!

MY... MY HEAD'S EXPLODING!

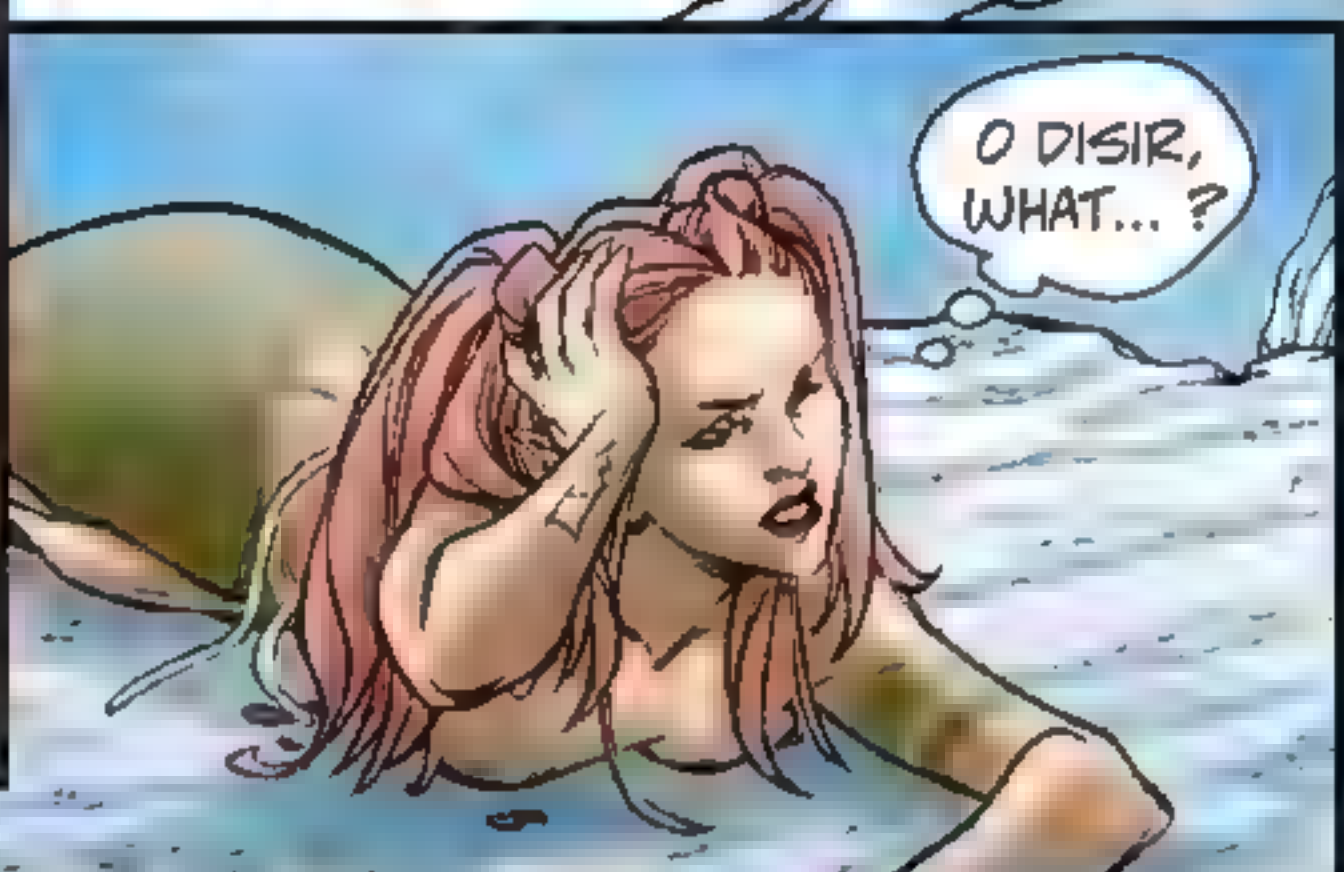


szins

svdwo



OW...



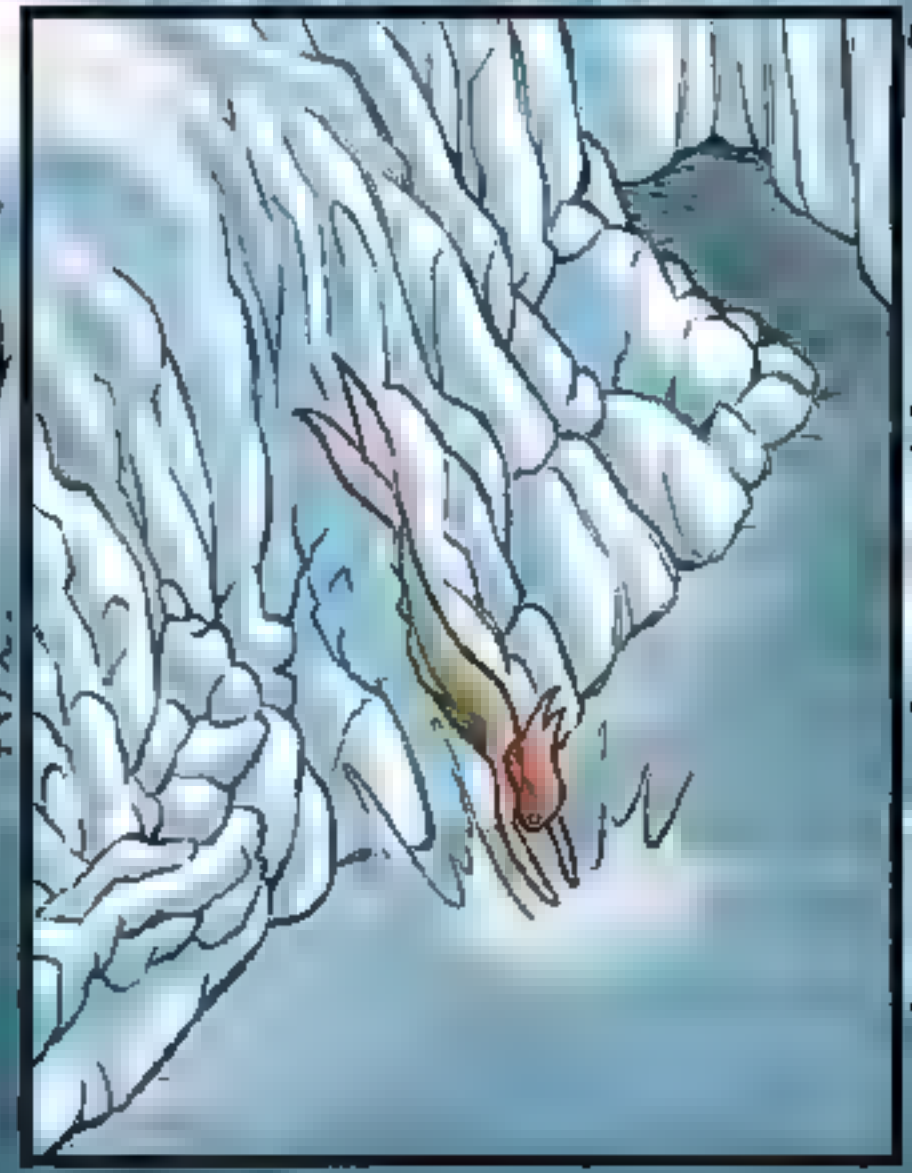
O DISIR, WHAT...?



WHAT'S HAPPENING?



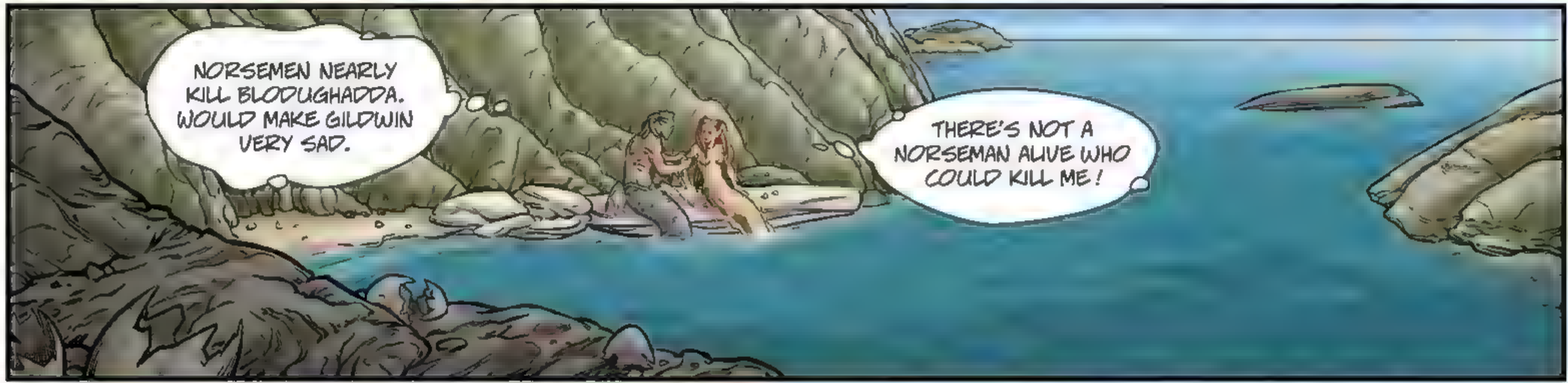
BLODUGHADDA, COME BACK HERE! HURRY!





"BLODUGHADDA NOW
IN SAFE PLACE. GILDWIN
FIX ARM WOUND. MAKE
SEAWEEED POULTICE..."

"IT'S ONLY
A SCRATCH."



NORSEMEN NEARLY
KILL BLODUGHADDA.
WOULD MAKE GILDWIN
VERY SAD.

THERE'S NOT A
NORSEMAN ALIVE WHO
COULD KILL ME!



GILDWIN, I... WHAT HAPPENED BACK
THERE? WHY DID THOSE NORSEMEN
KILL EACH OTHER LIKE THAT?

GILDWIN NOT
KNOW. SCARED FOR
BLODUGHADDA. PRAYED
FOR THEM TO STOP.



PRAYED? WHAT...
DO YOU MEAN?

I NOT UNDERSTAND. ALL
HAPPEN SO FAST. STRANGE
LANGUAGE NOISE INSIDE
GILDWIN HEAD.



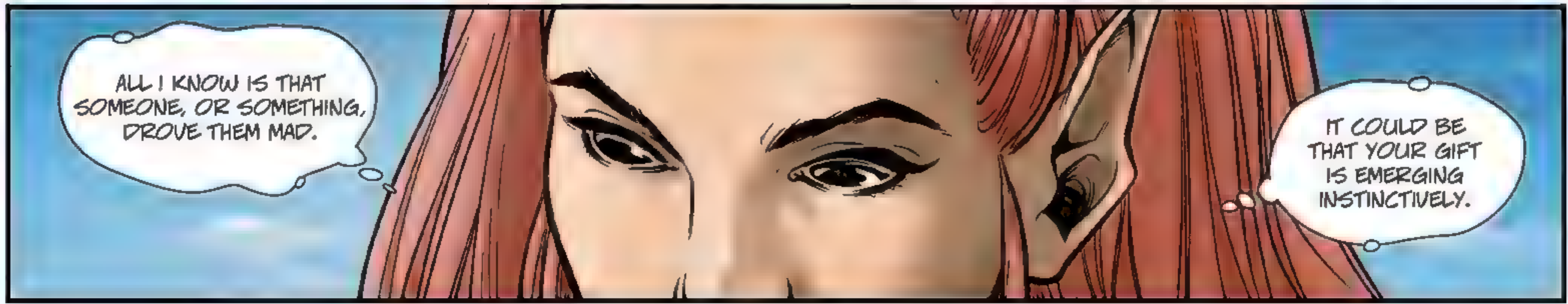
HAS THAT
EVER HAPPENED TO
YOU BEFORE?

GILDWIN
NOT SURE.
WHY?



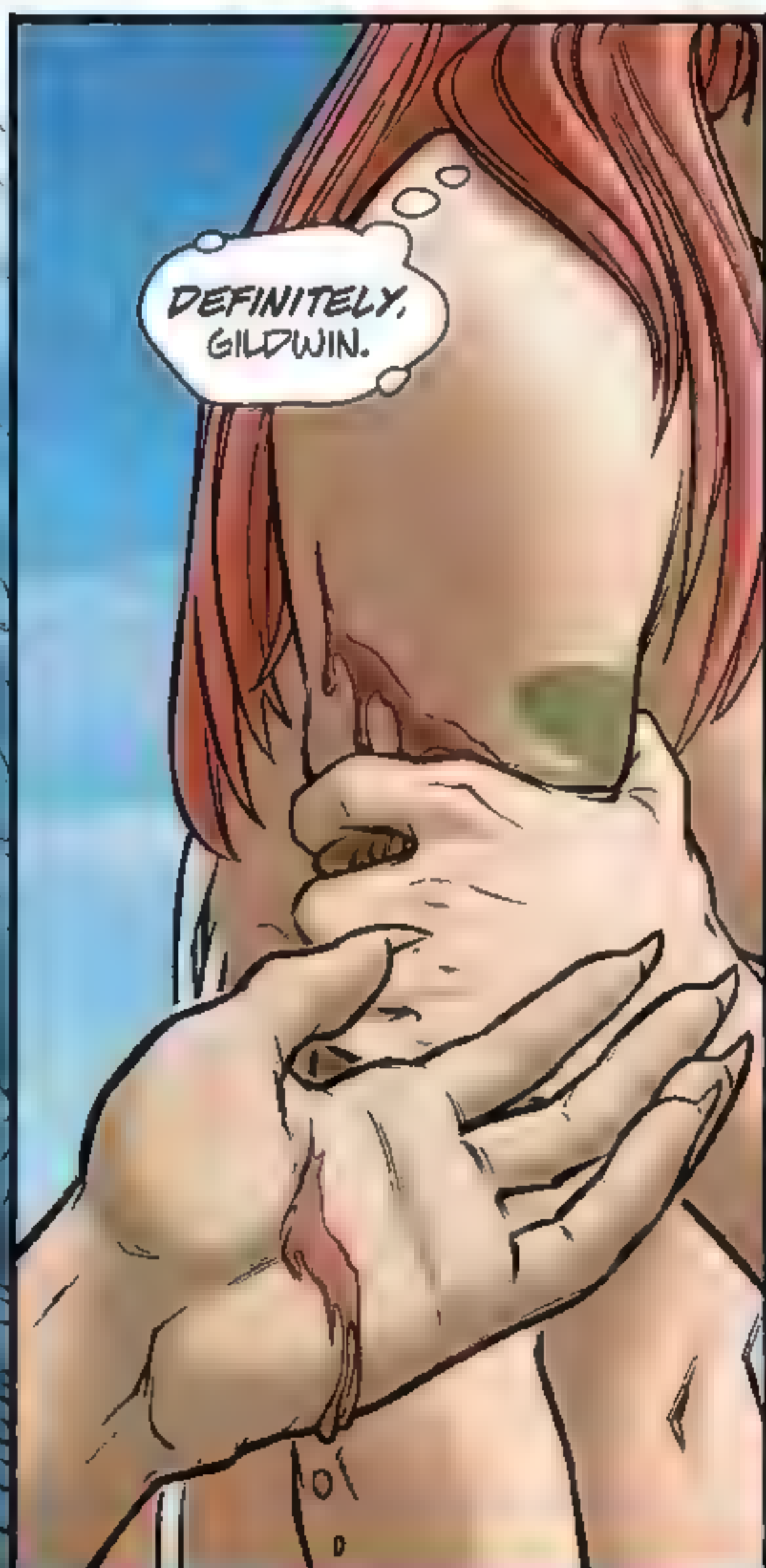
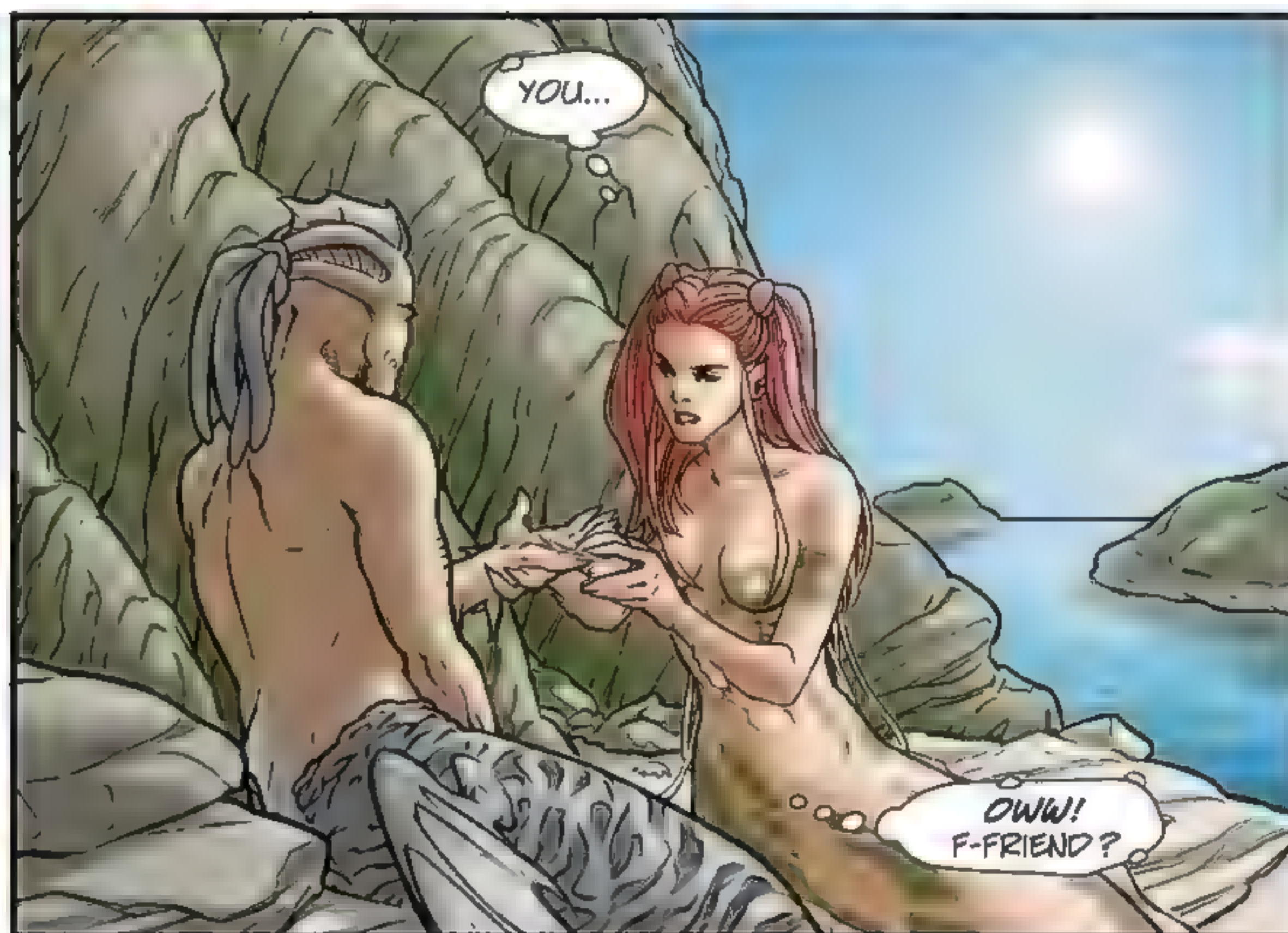
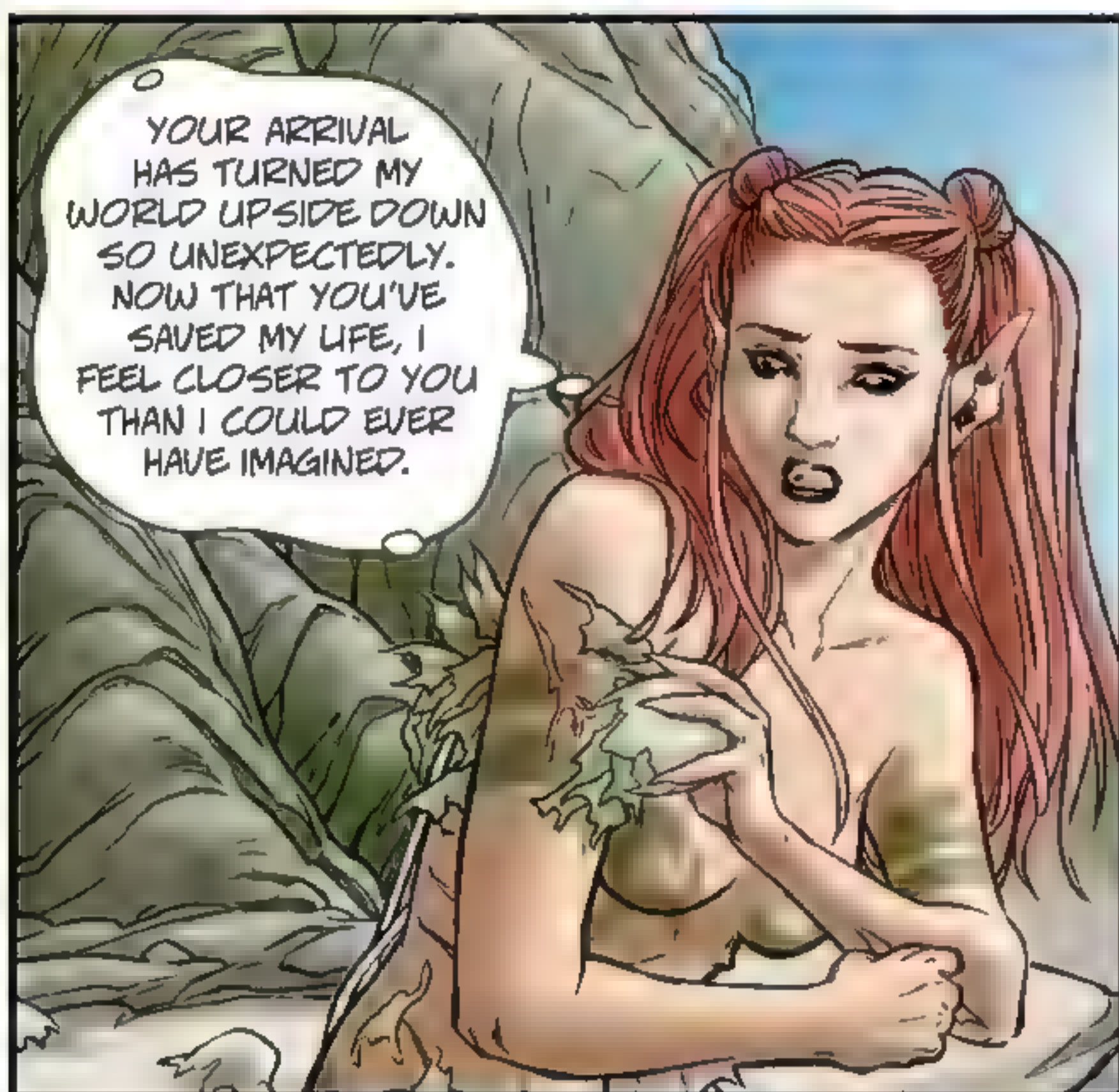
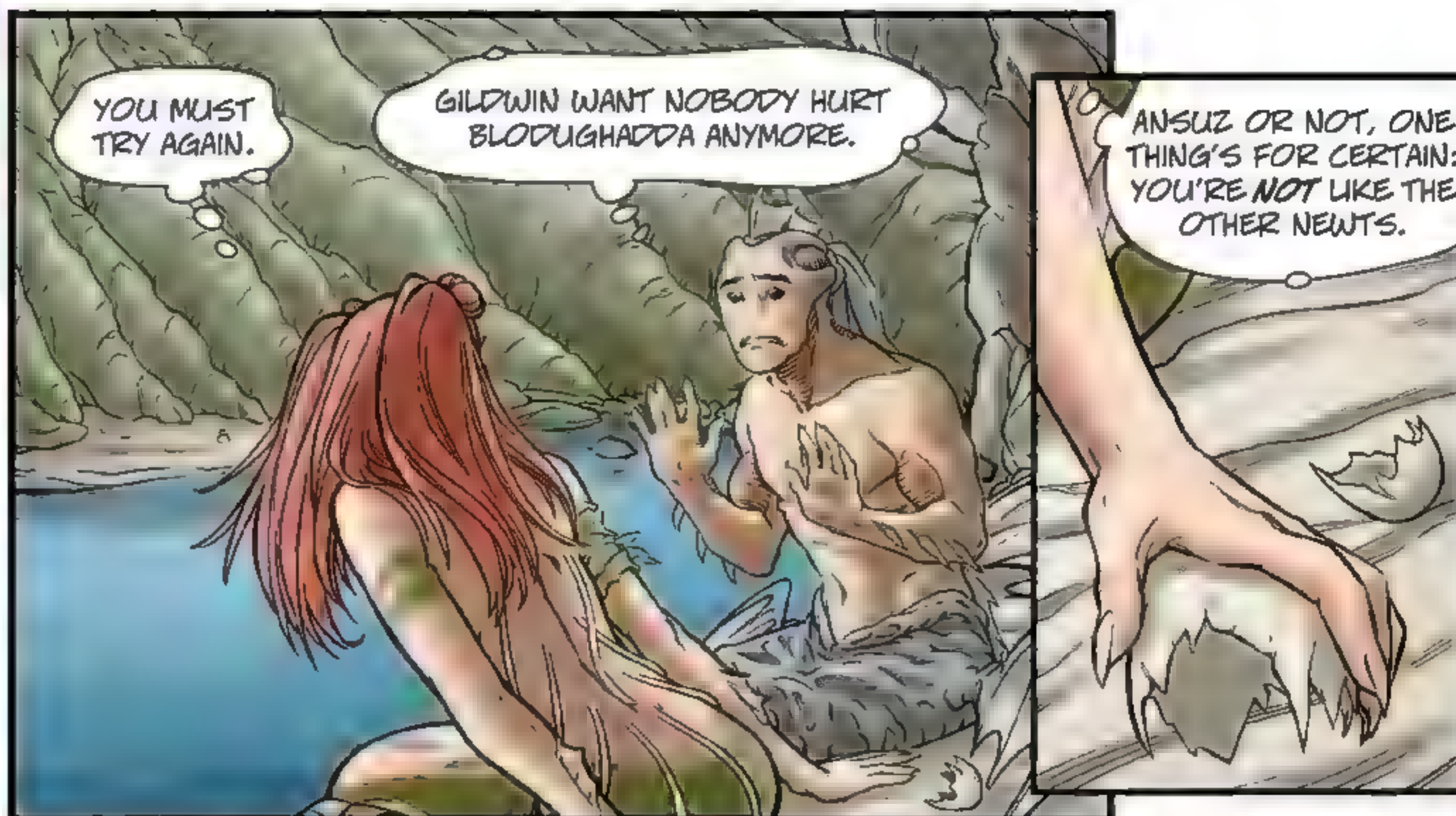
THOSE NORSEMEN DIDN'T GO INSANE
FOR NO REASON, AND THEY KNOCKED
ME OUT BEFORE I HAD TIME TO
CAST A SPELL ON THEM.

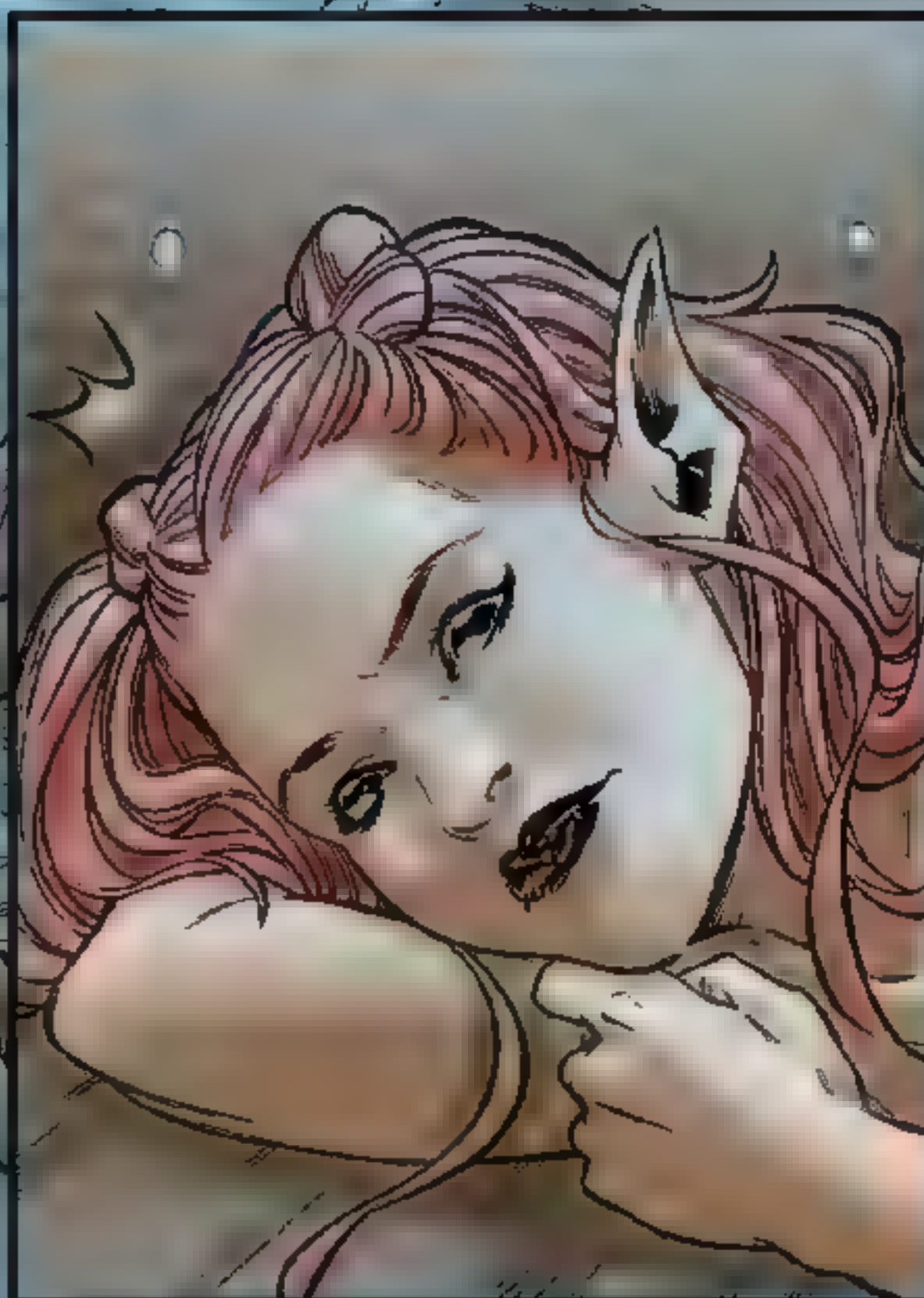
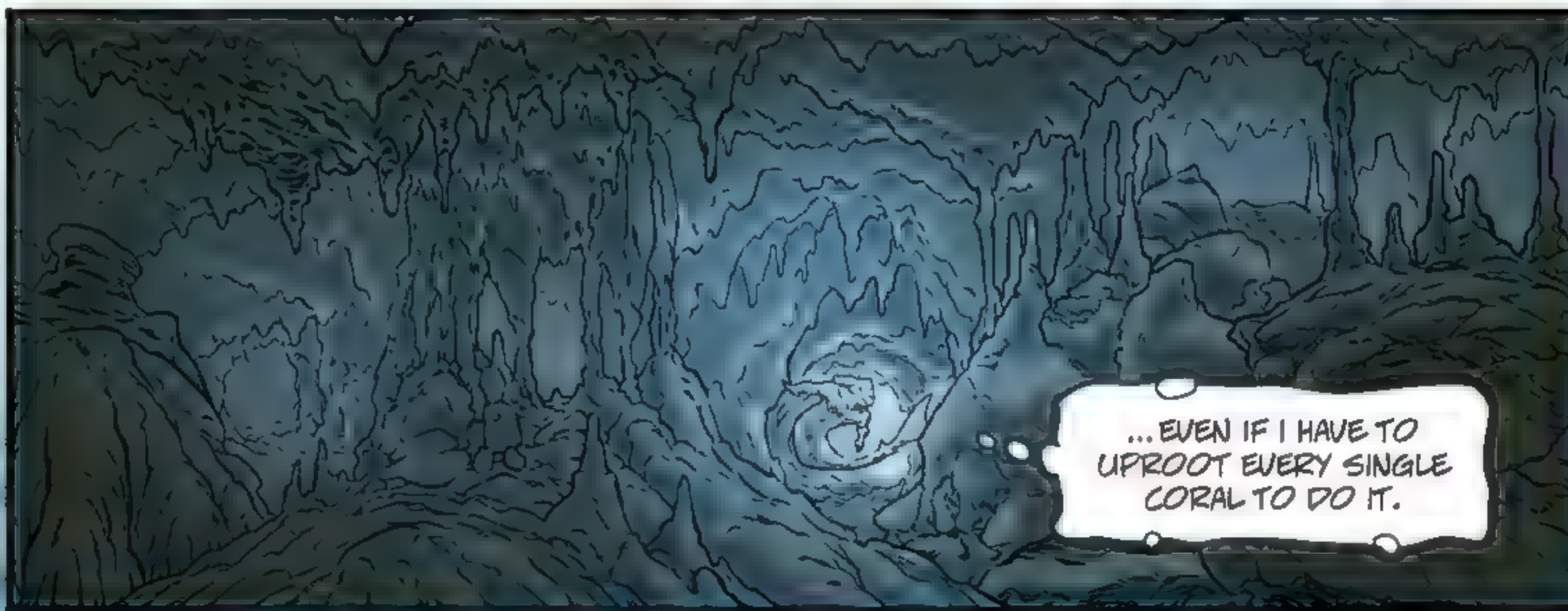
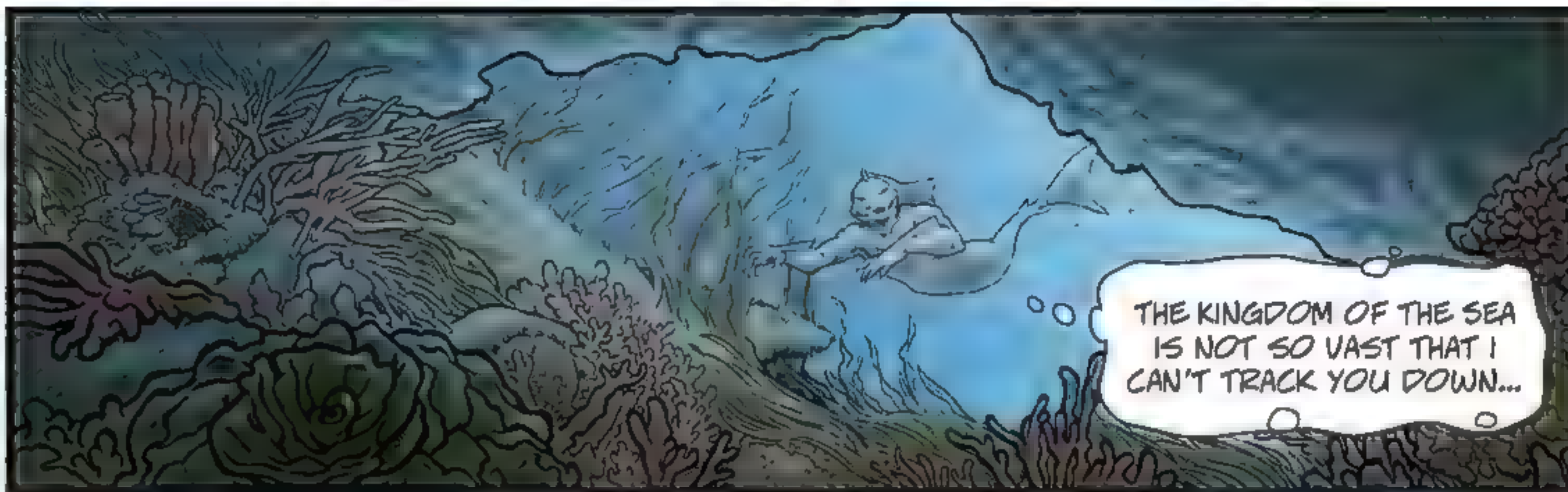
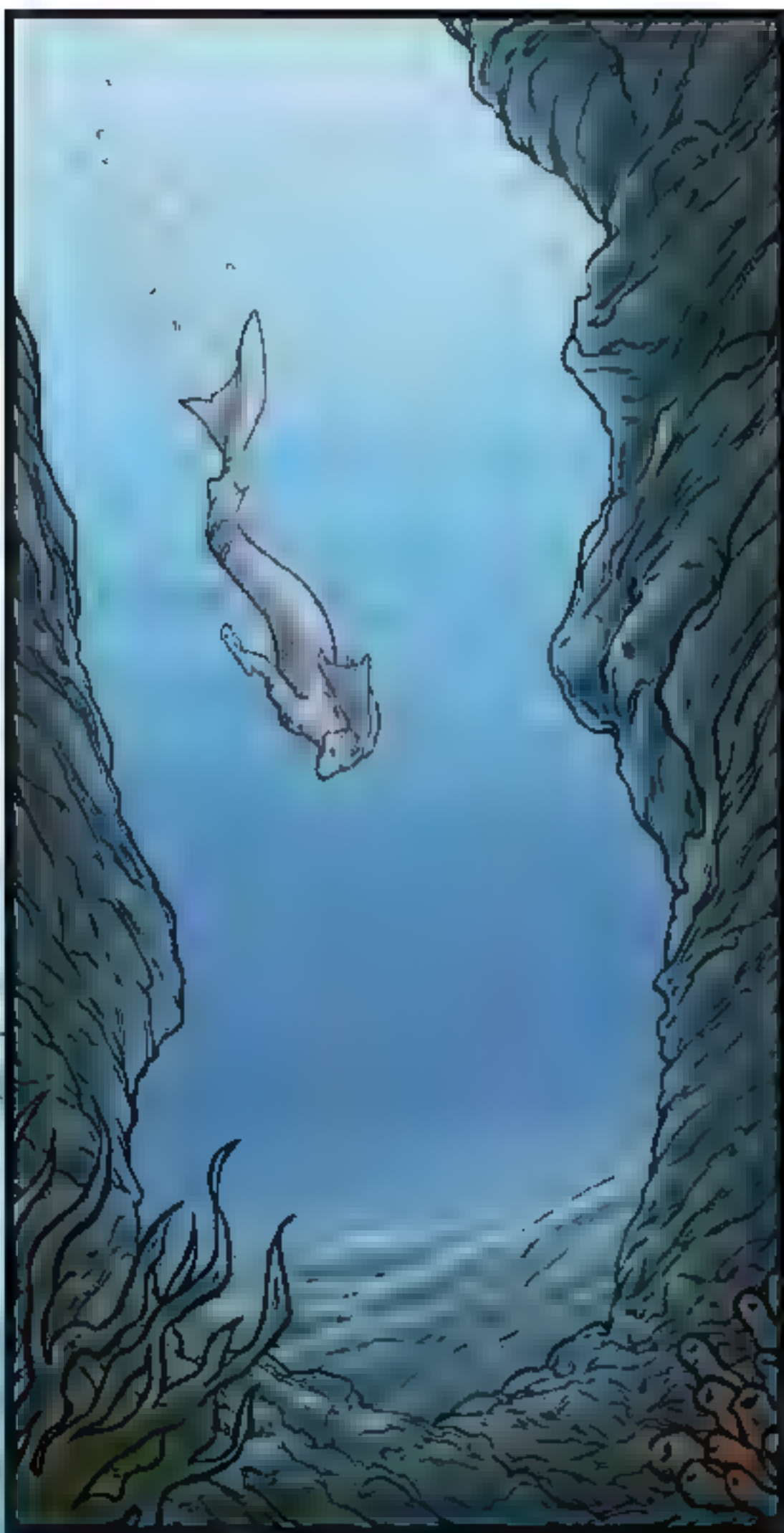
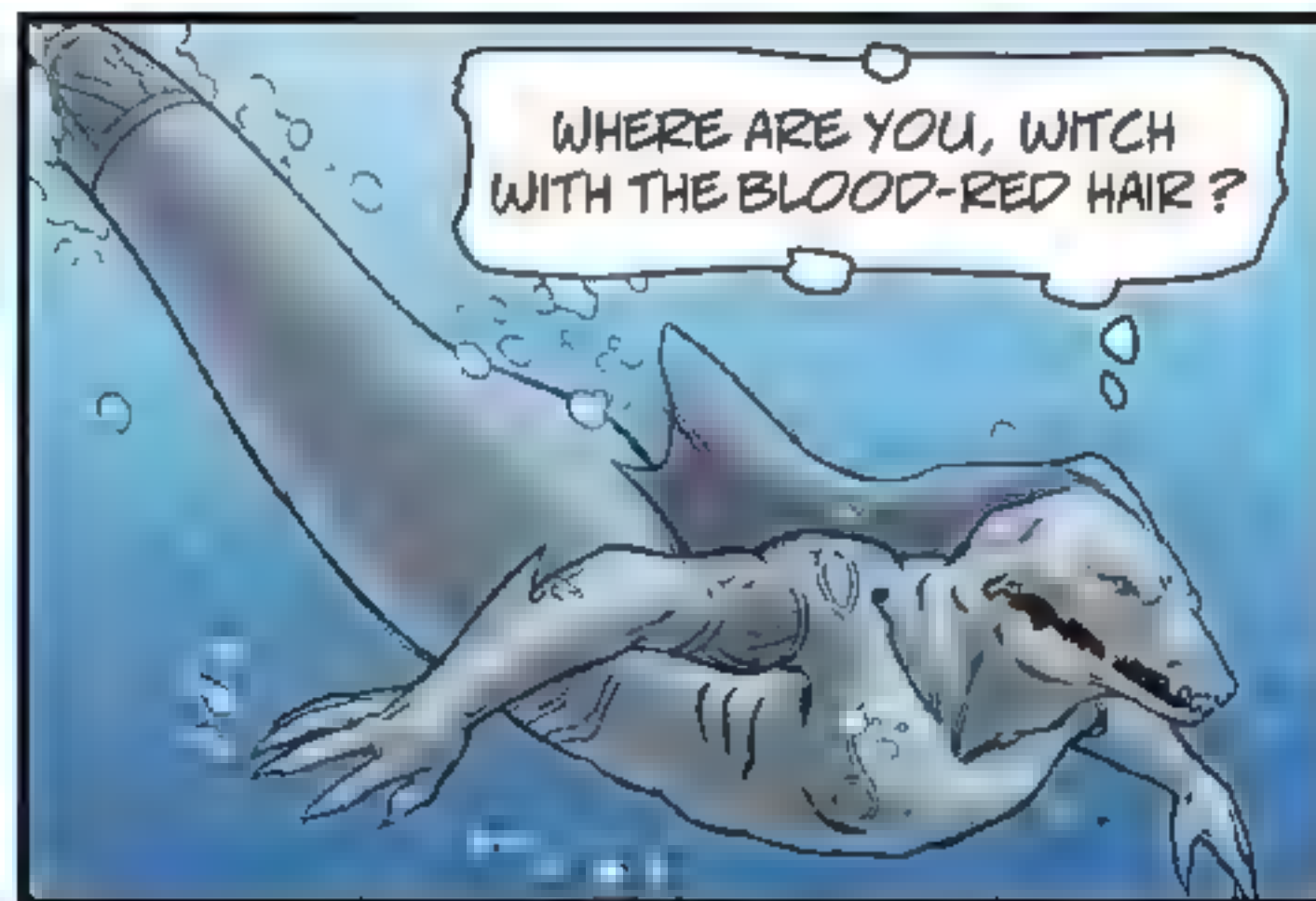
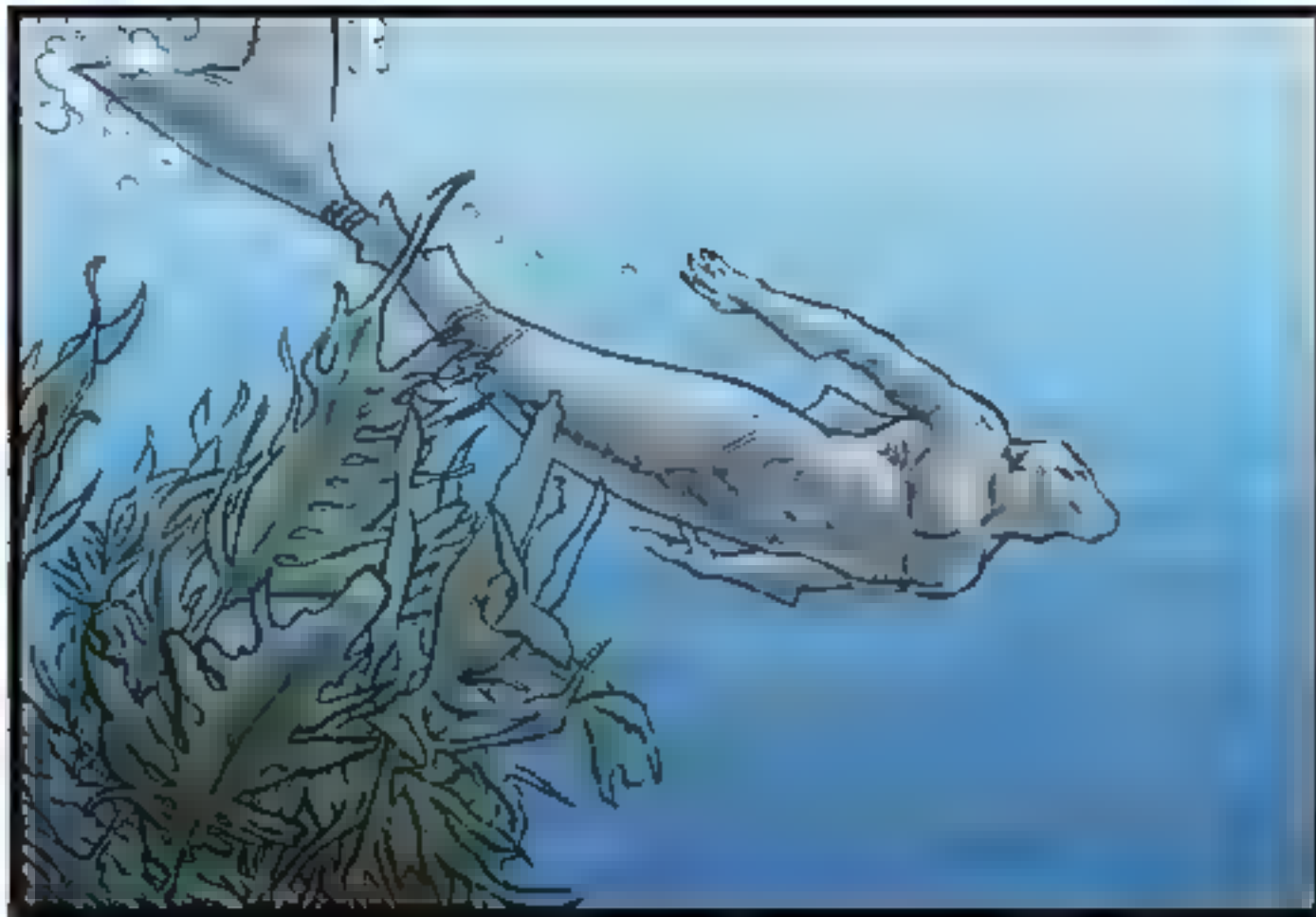
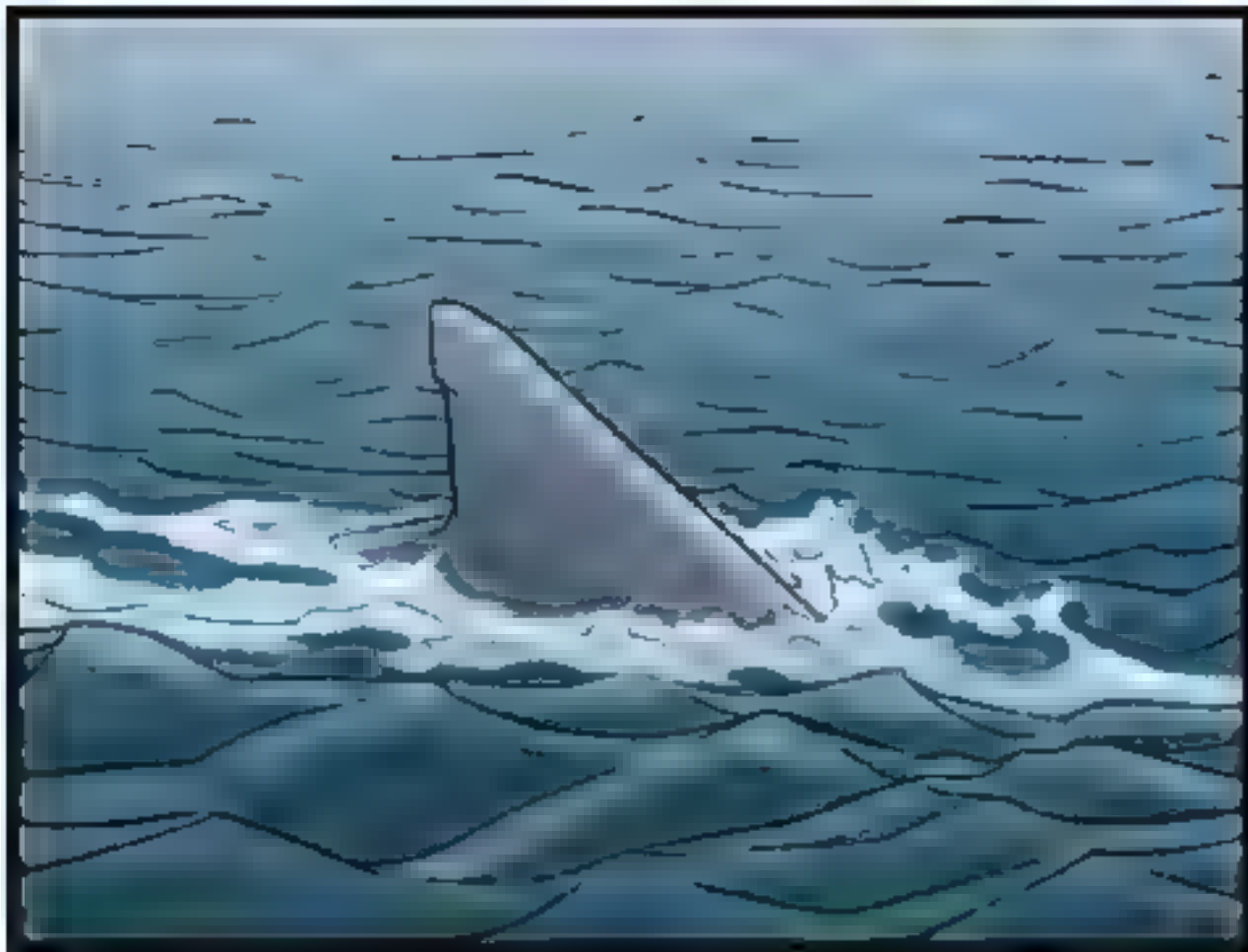
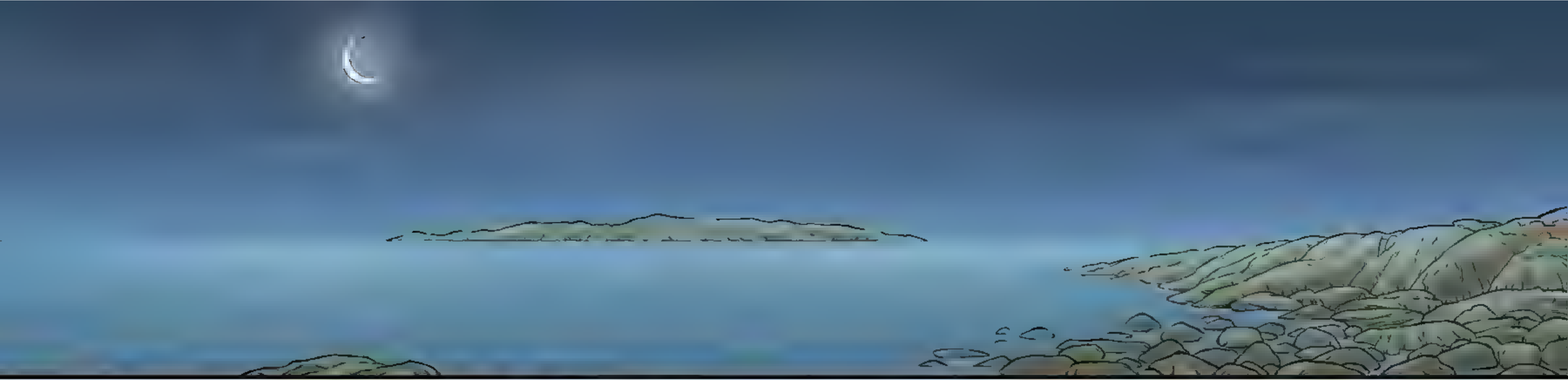
BLODUGHADDA THINK GILDWIN
DO IT? BUT...HOW?

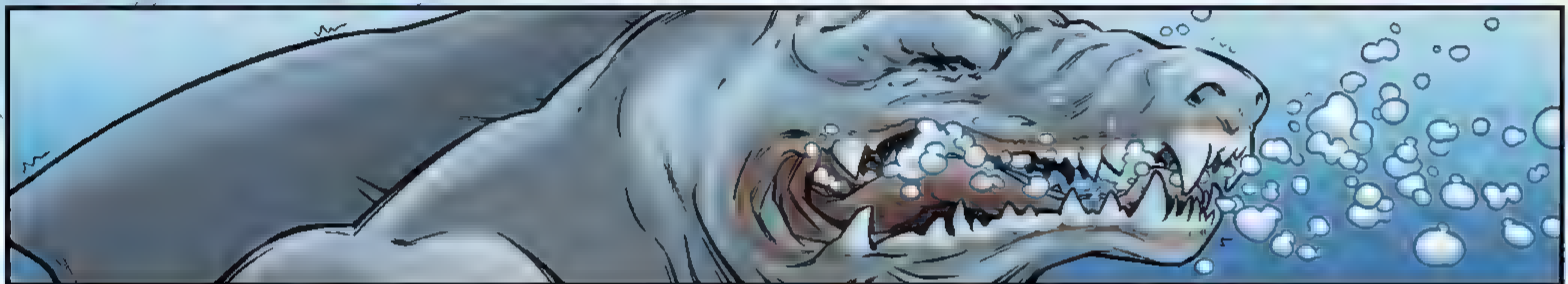
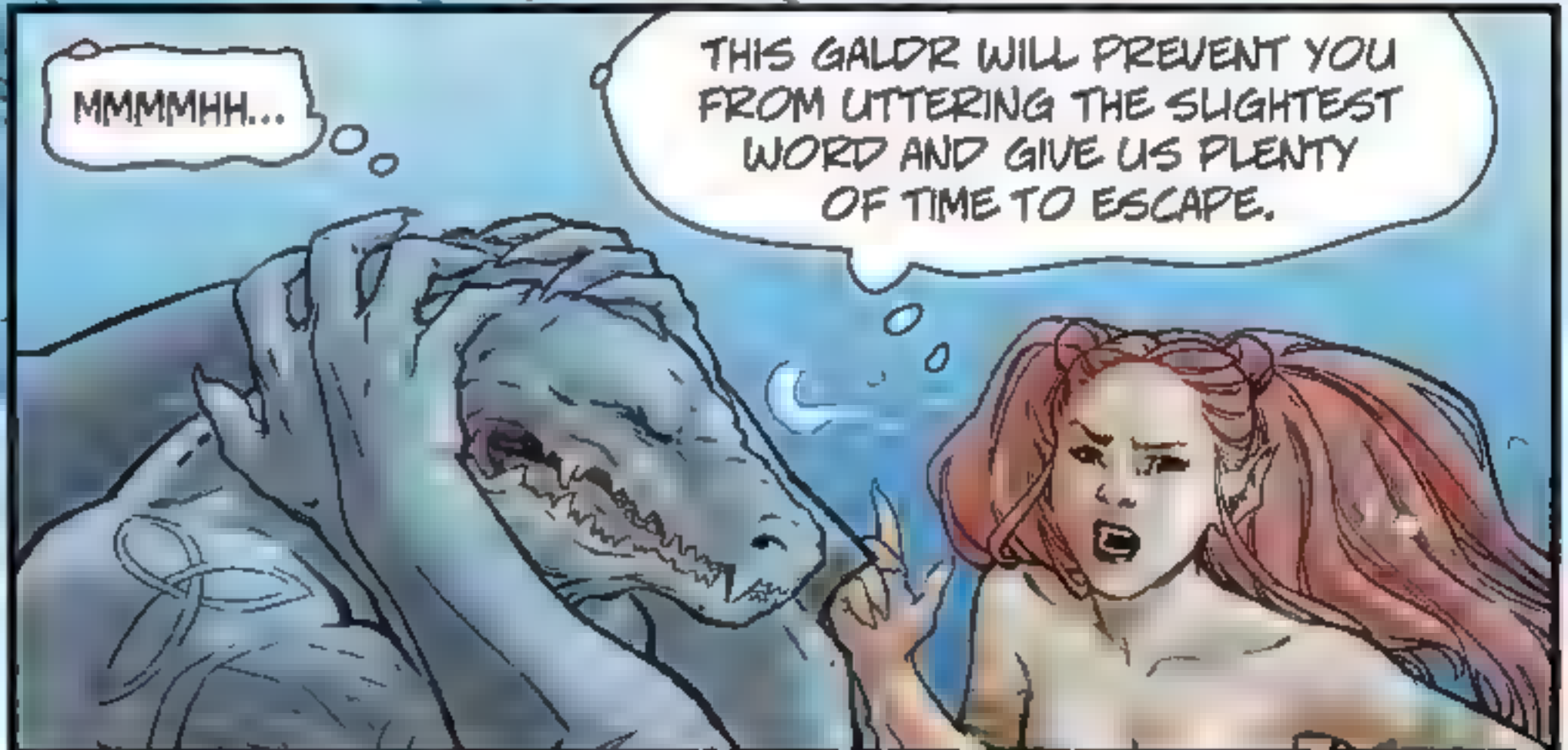
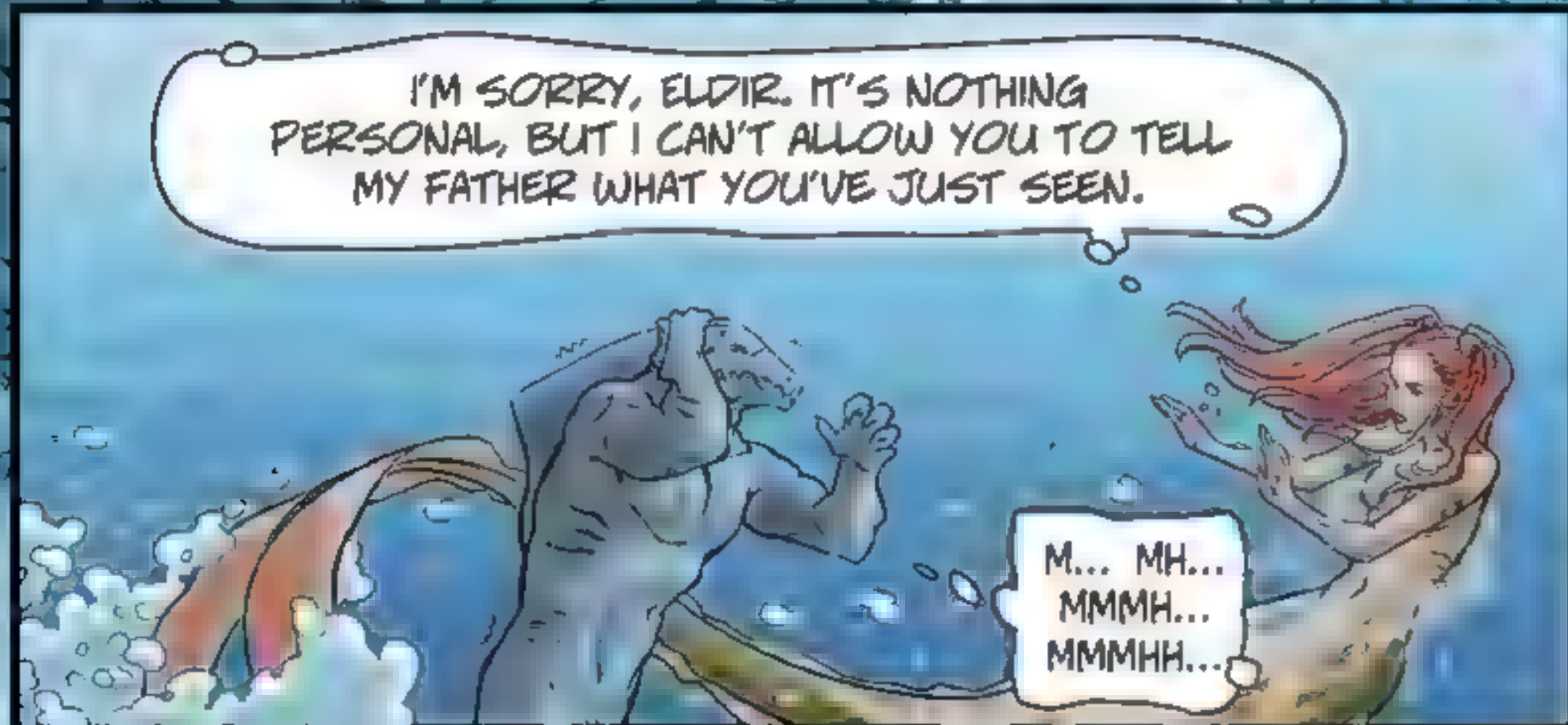
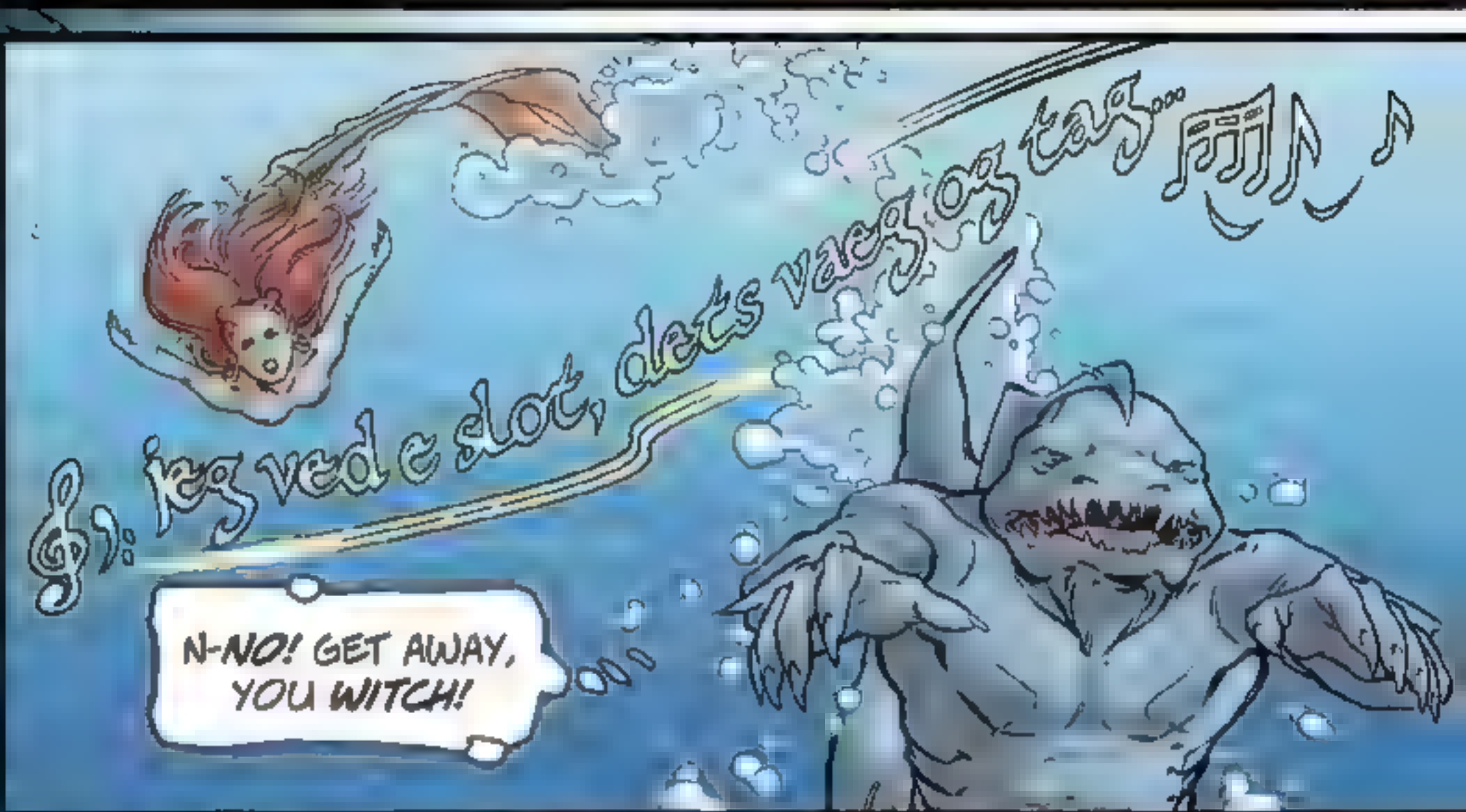
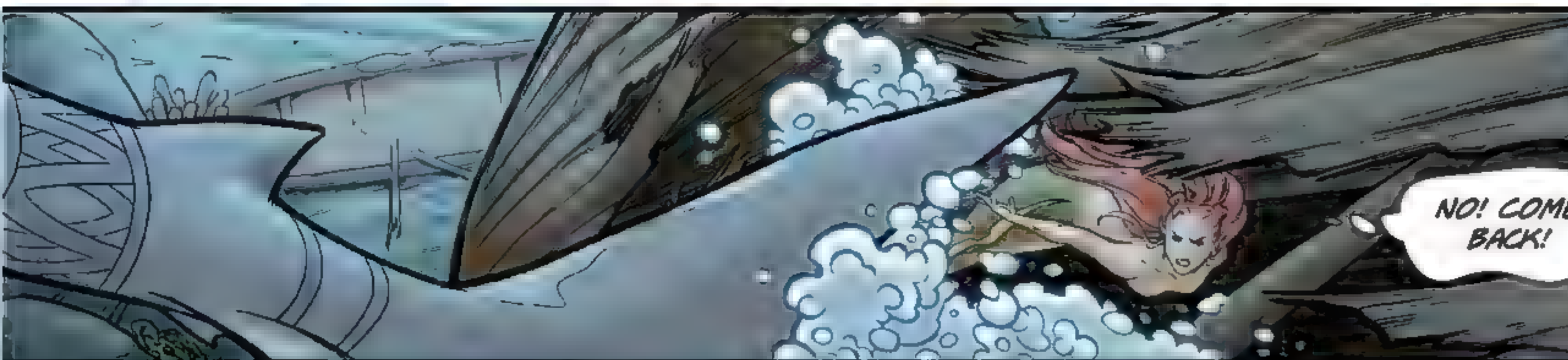
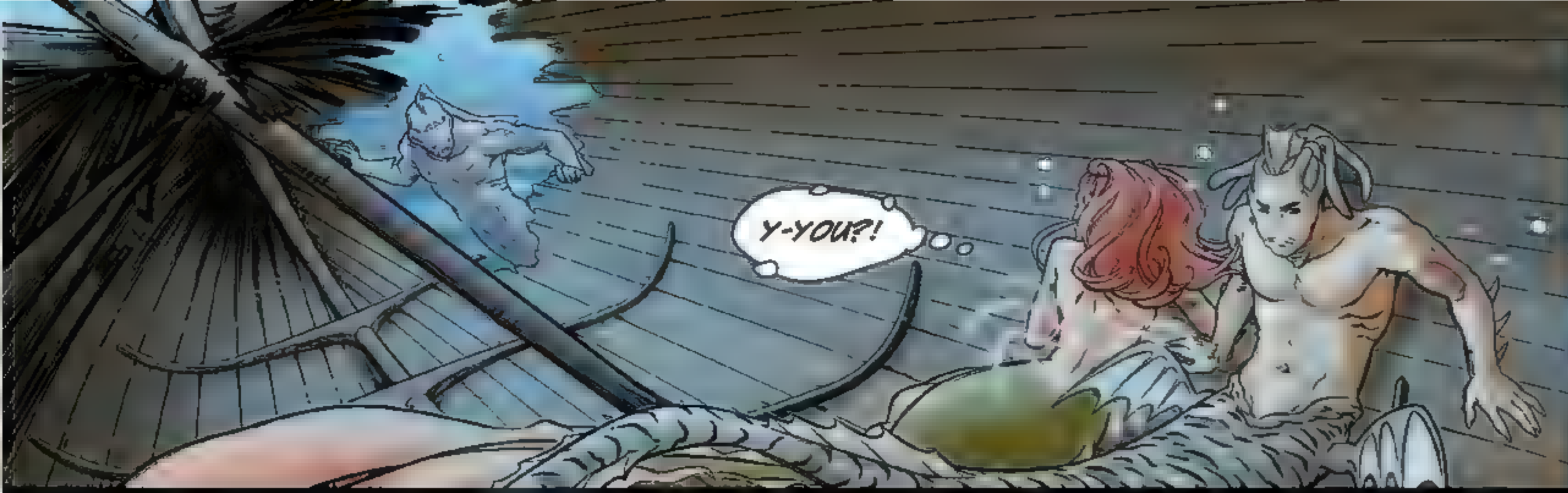


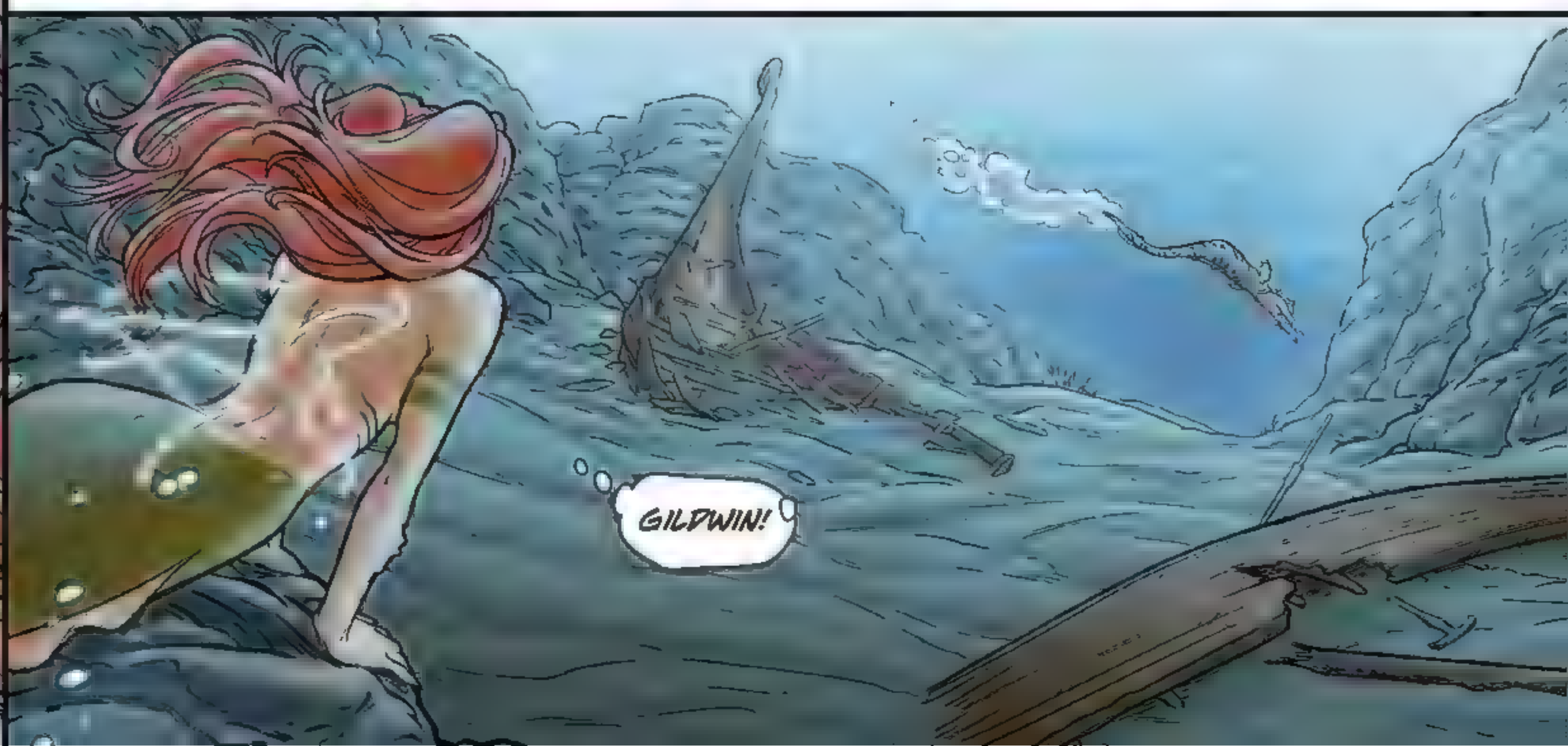
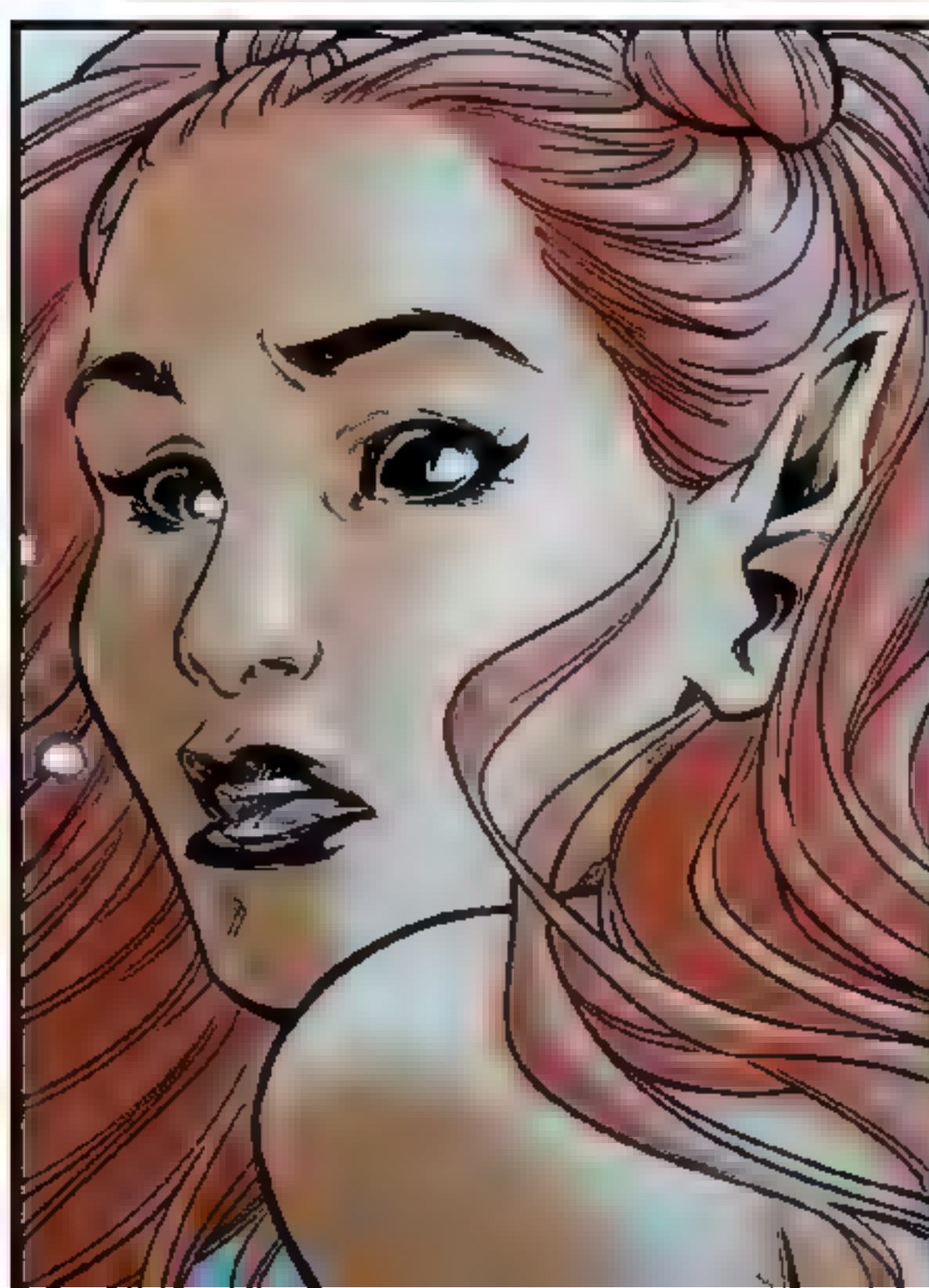
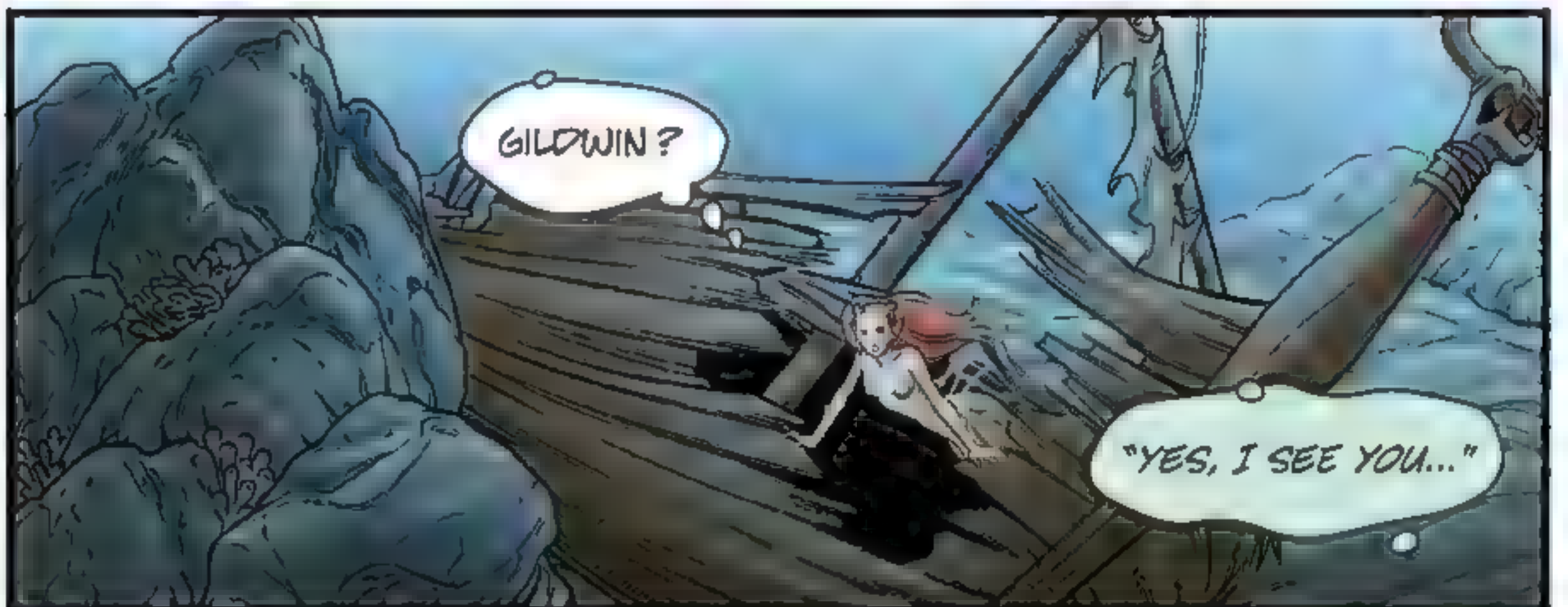
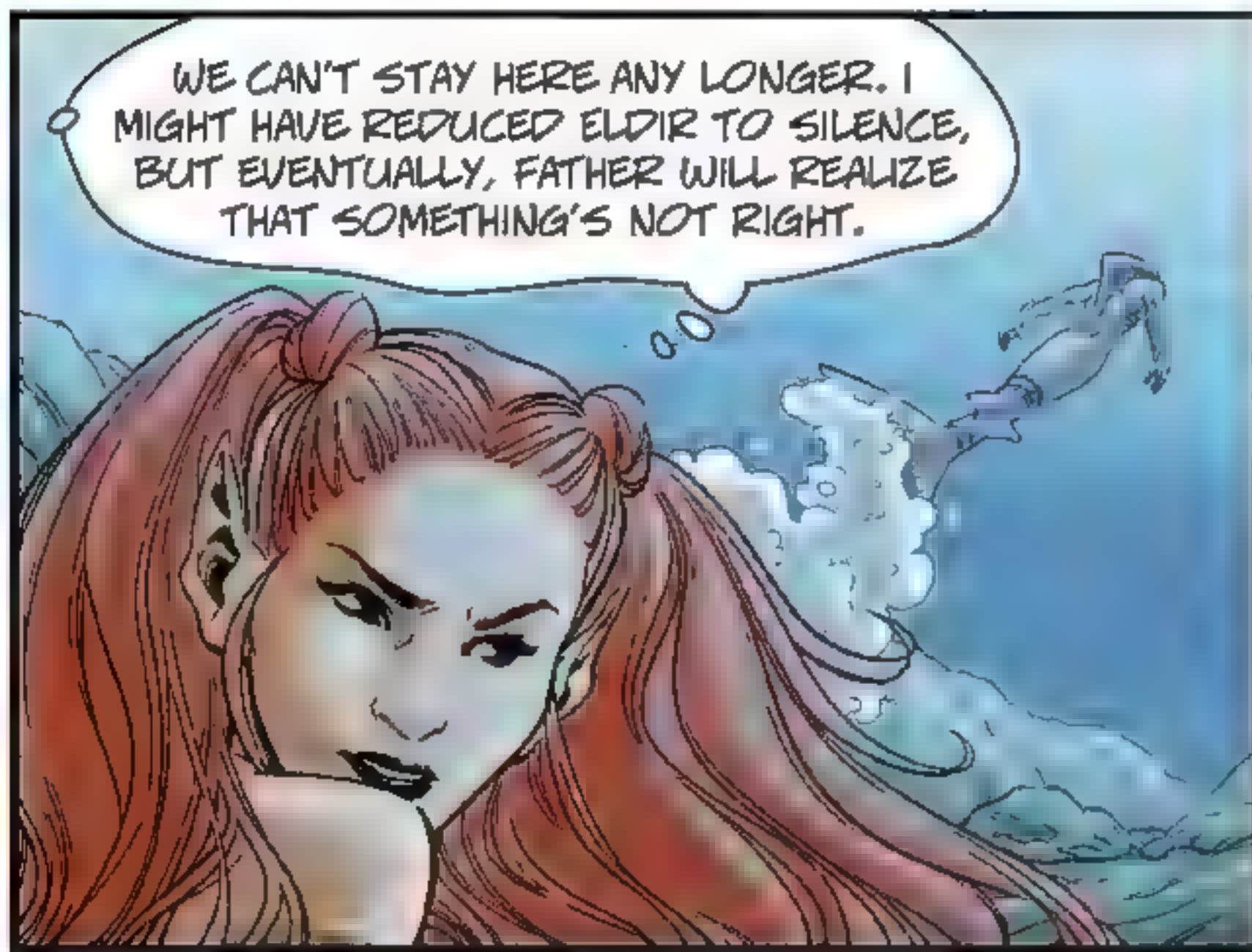
ALL I KNOW IS THAT
SOMEONE, OR SOMETHING,
DROVE THEM MAD.

IT COULD BE
THAT YOUR GIFT
IS EMERGING
INSTINCTIVELY.







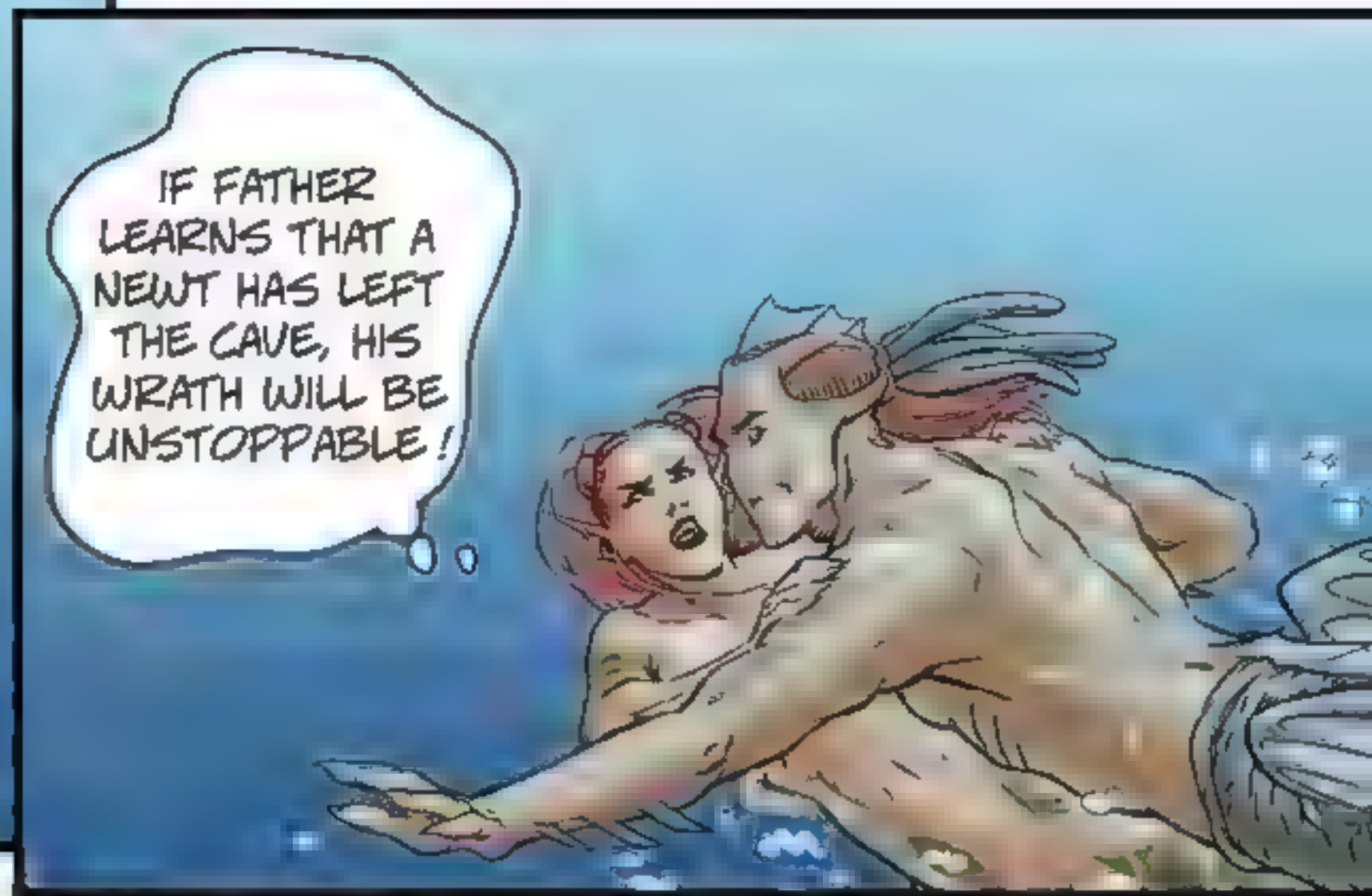




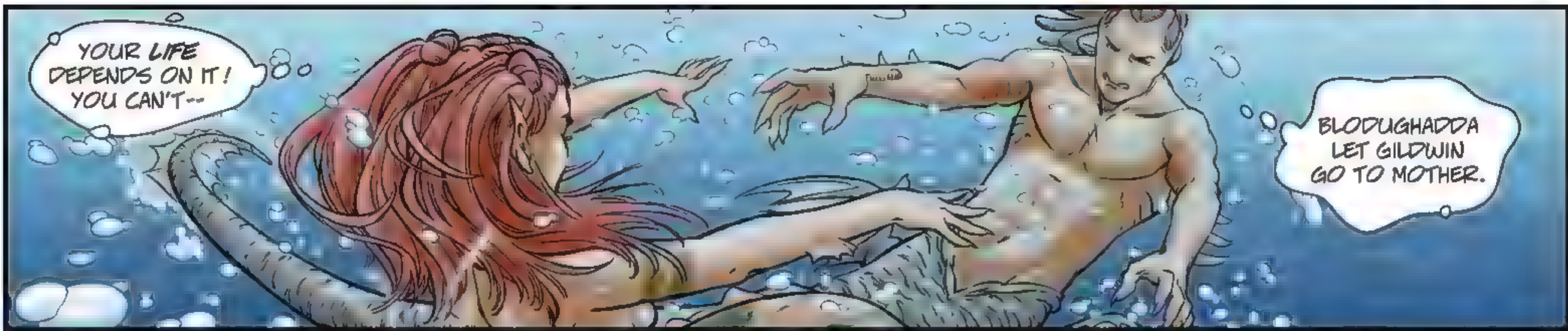
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



STOP! ARE YOU MAD?

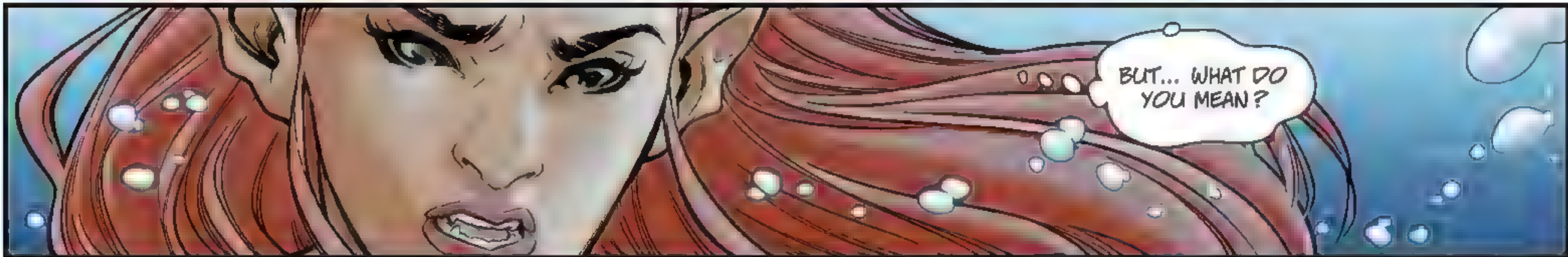


IF FATHER LEARNS THAT A NEWT HAS LEFT THE CAVE, HIS WRATH WILL BE UNSTOPPABLE!

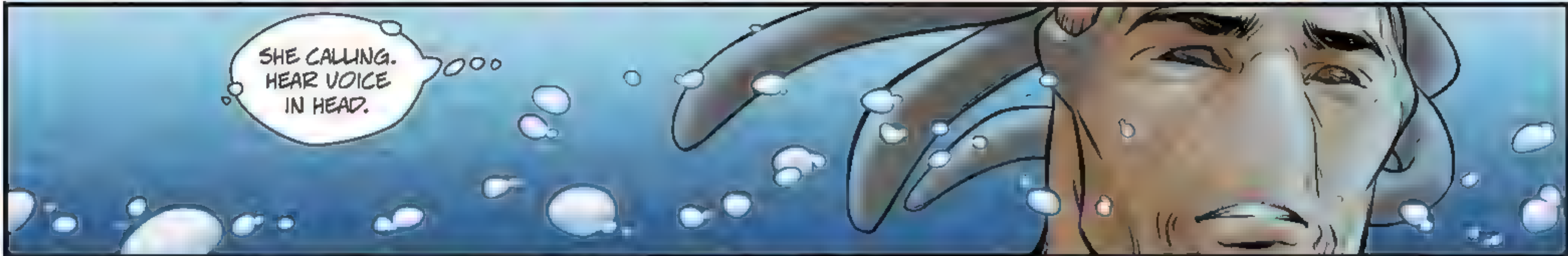


YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT! YOU CAN'T--

BLODUGHADDA LET GILDWIN GO TO MOTHER.



BUT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



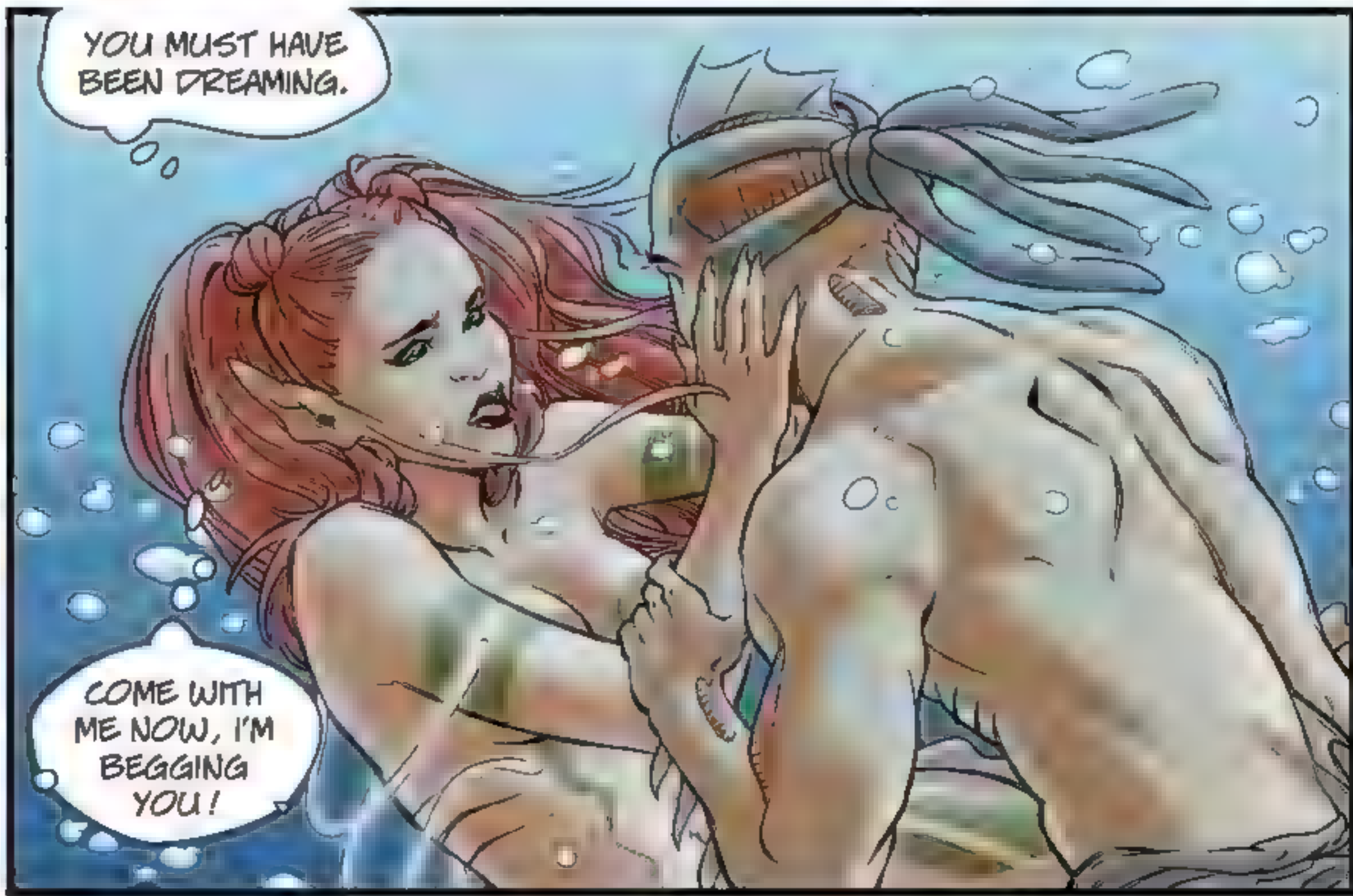
SHE CALLING. HEAR VOICE IN HEAD.



SEE PICTURE. SHE PRISONER. BIG CAGE. MOTHER HAVFRUE* LIKE YOU. LONG SERPENT TAIL.



A LONG... BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, GILDWIN! THERE ARE NO SIRENS LIKE THAT DESCENDED FROM RAN, WHO GAVE BIRTH TO US ALL.



YOU MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING.

COME WITH ME NOW, I'M BEGGING YOU!

*SIREN.



I CAME AS FAST
AS I COULD, FATHER.
WHAT IS IT?

UDR, MY DAUGHTER...
I AM IN NEED OF YOUR
HEALING POWERS.

IT'S ELDIR. HE IS
AFFLICTED BY A STRANGE
ILLNESS. I HAVE NEVER
SEEN THE LIKE. HE IS
UNABLE TO SPEAK.

PERHAPS HE
WAS STUNG BY
SOME TROPICAL
JELLYFISH, LOST
IN OUR SEAS,
WHICH HAS LEFT
HIM PARALYZED?

I CAN'T SEE
ANYTHING THAT LOOKS
LIKE A STING. AND ALL
OF HIS ORGANS
SEEM HEALTHY.

I DON'T THINK THIS
ILLNESS IS DUE TO
NATURAL CAUSES.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

IT LOOKS MORE
LIKE A SPELL OR
ENCHANTMENT.

BLODUGHADDA...

IT WOULDN'T BE
THE FIRST TIME SHE'S
USED HER POWERS
TO DO HARM. BUT SHE
HAS GONE MUCH TOO
FAR THIS TIME, DON'T
YOU AGREE?

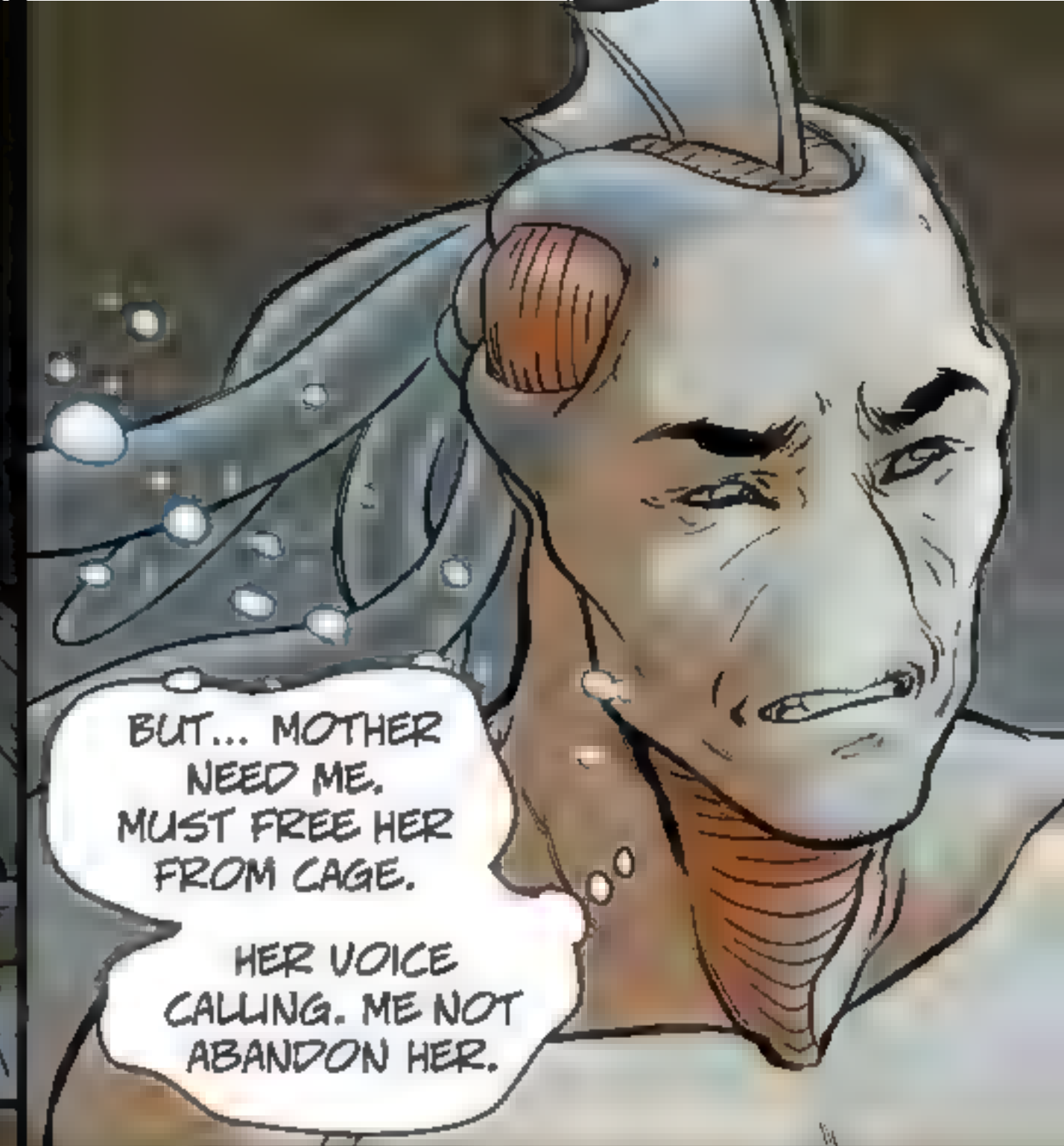
HMM... YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S TIME TO STOP
BEING SOFT ON HER...



WE NEED TO GO AWAY
AND HIDE. IF ELDIR FOUND
US, THEN IT WON'T TAKE MY
FATHER LONG, EITHER.

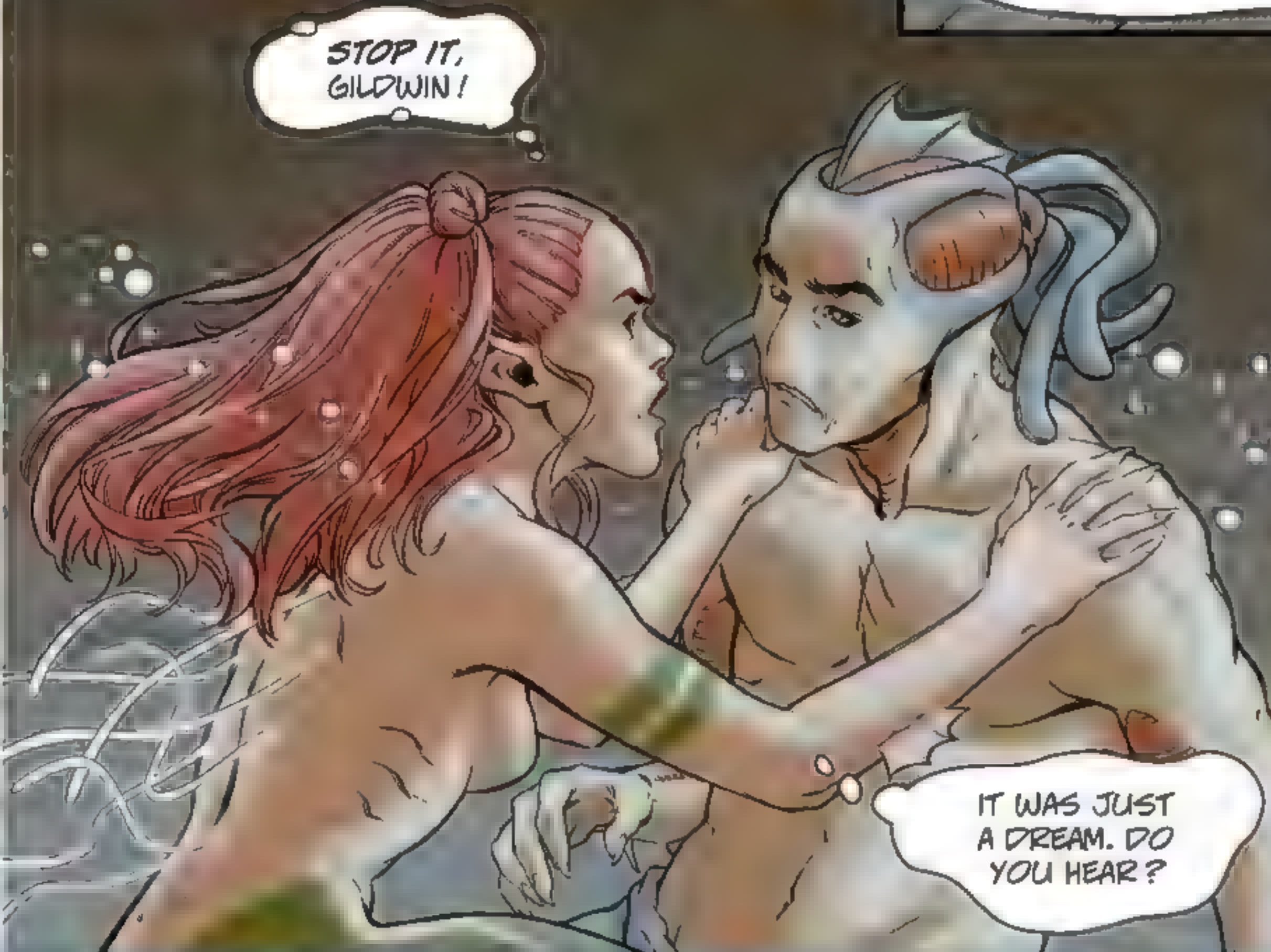


LET'S GO TO SOGNEFJORDEN. HE
WON'T THINK OF LOOKING FOR US THERE,
AND WE CAN STAY UNTIL WE COME UP
WITH A PLAN TO KEEP YOU SAFE.



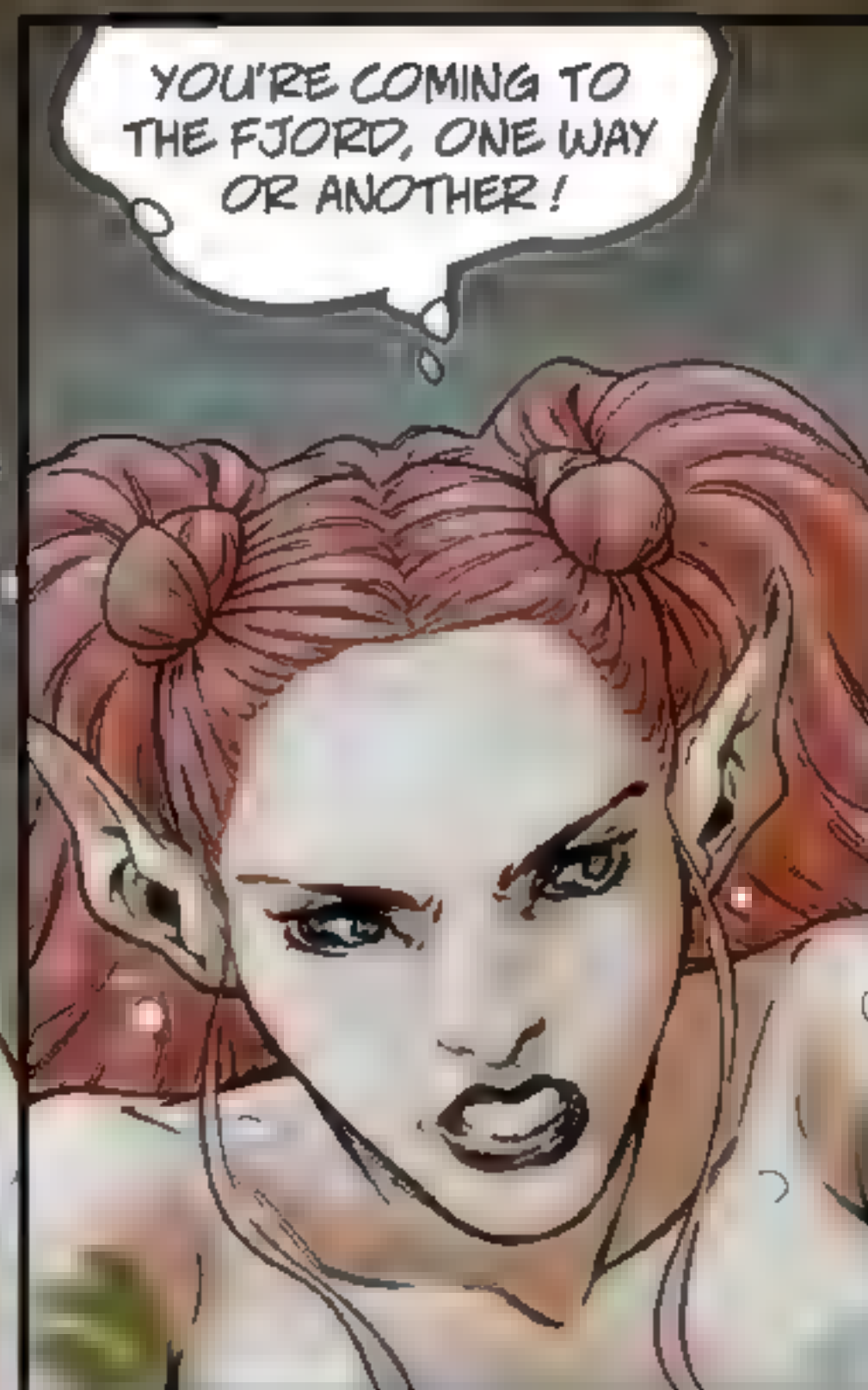
BUT... MOTHER
NEED ME.
MUST FREE HER
FROM CAGE.

HER VOICE
CALLING. ME NOT
ABANDON HER.



STOP IT,
GILDWIN!

IT WAS JUST
A DREAM. DO
YOU HEAR?



YOU'RE COMING TO
THE FJORD, ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER!

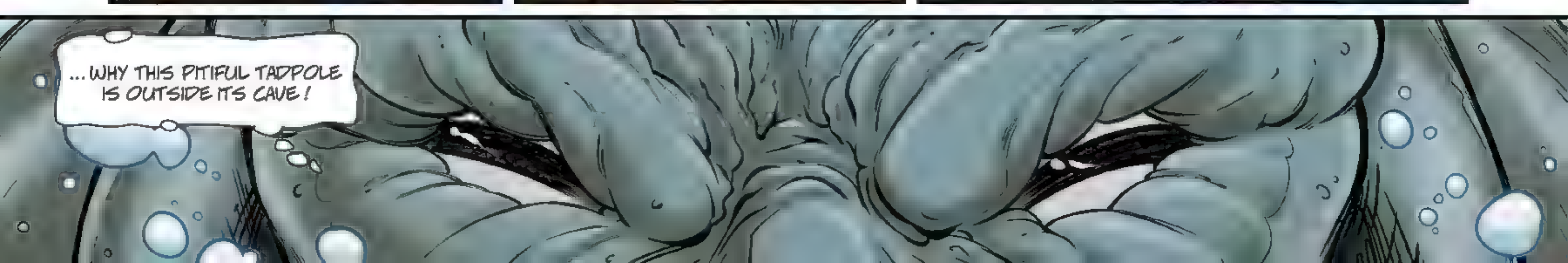
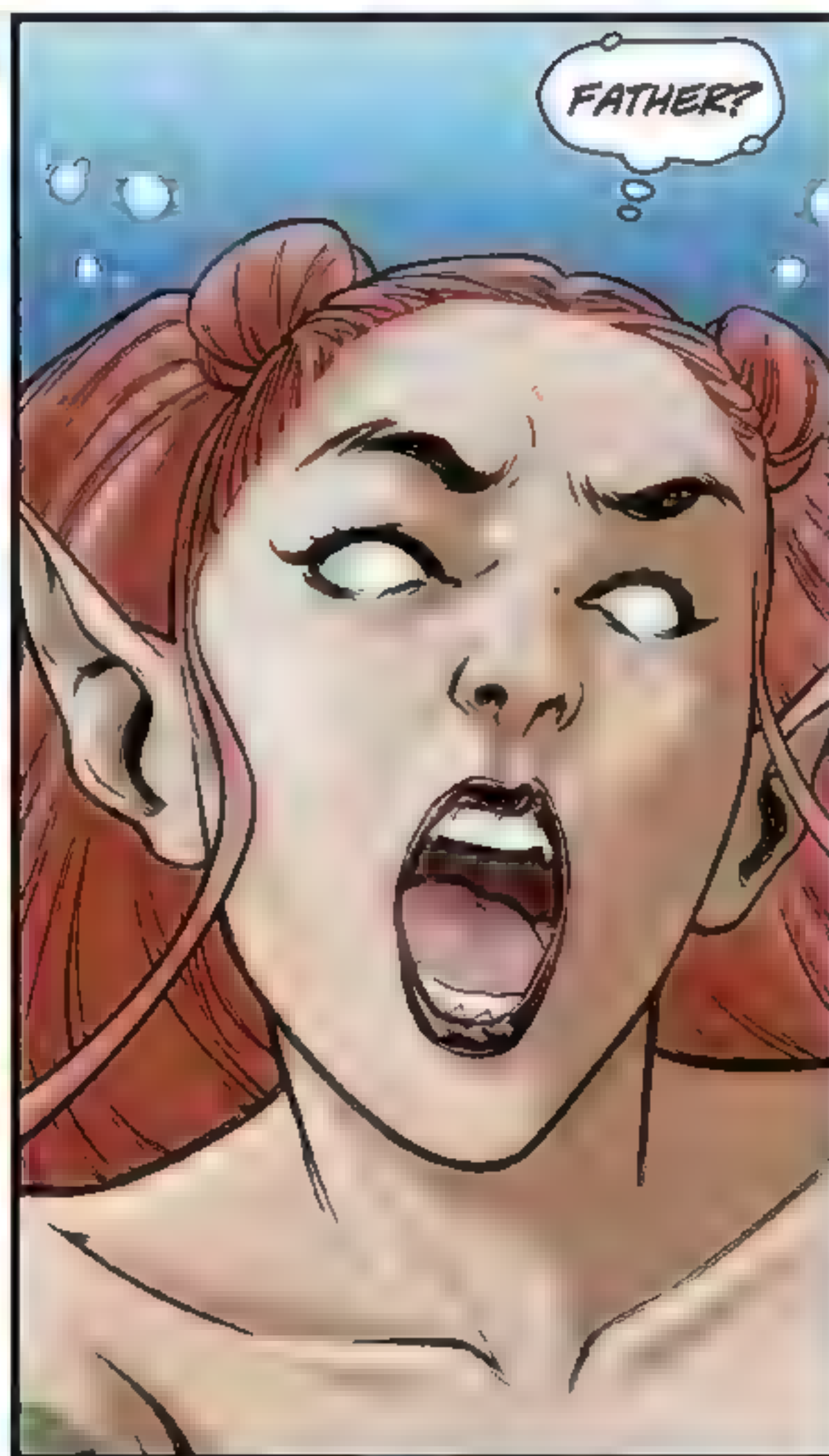
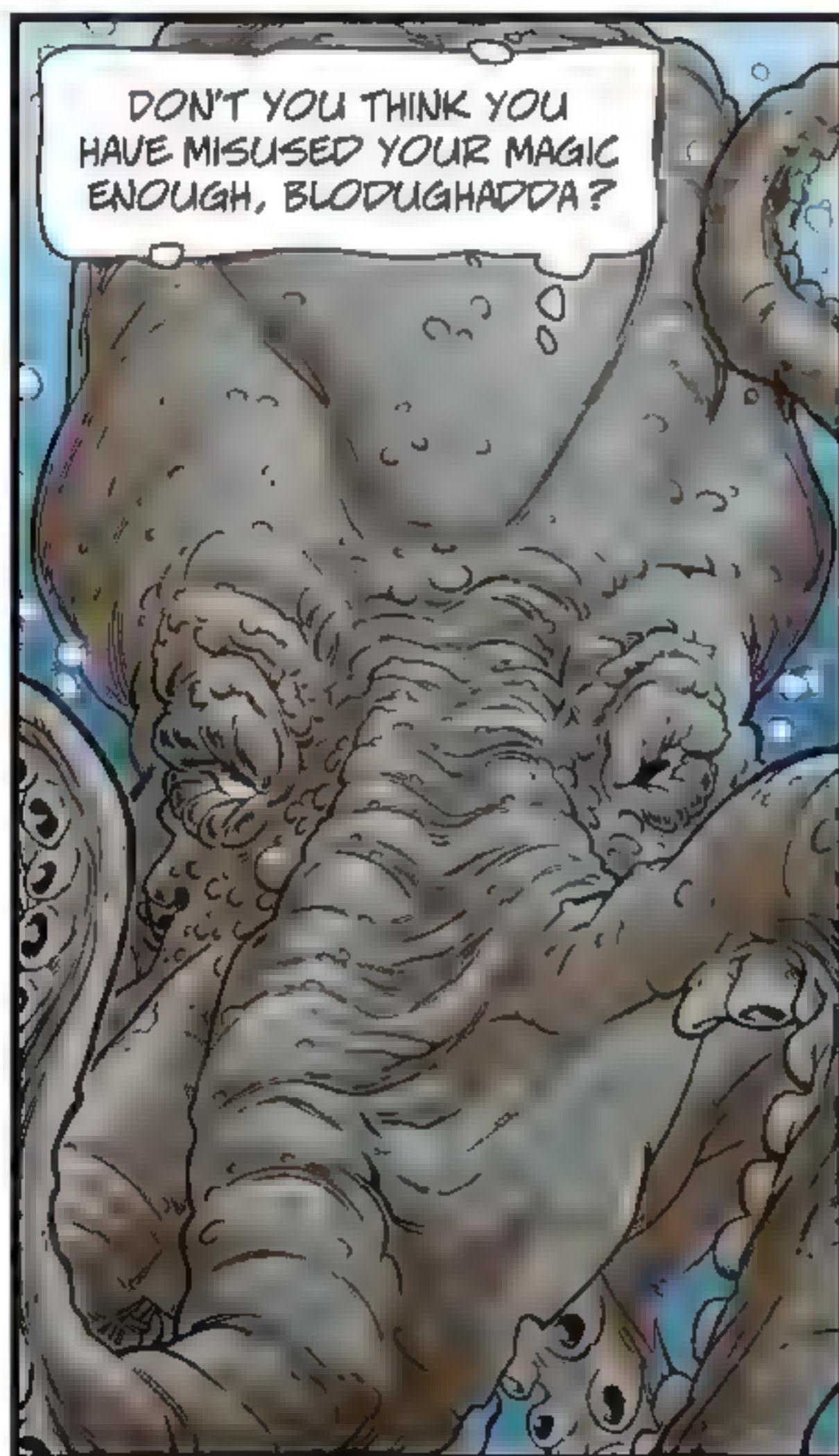
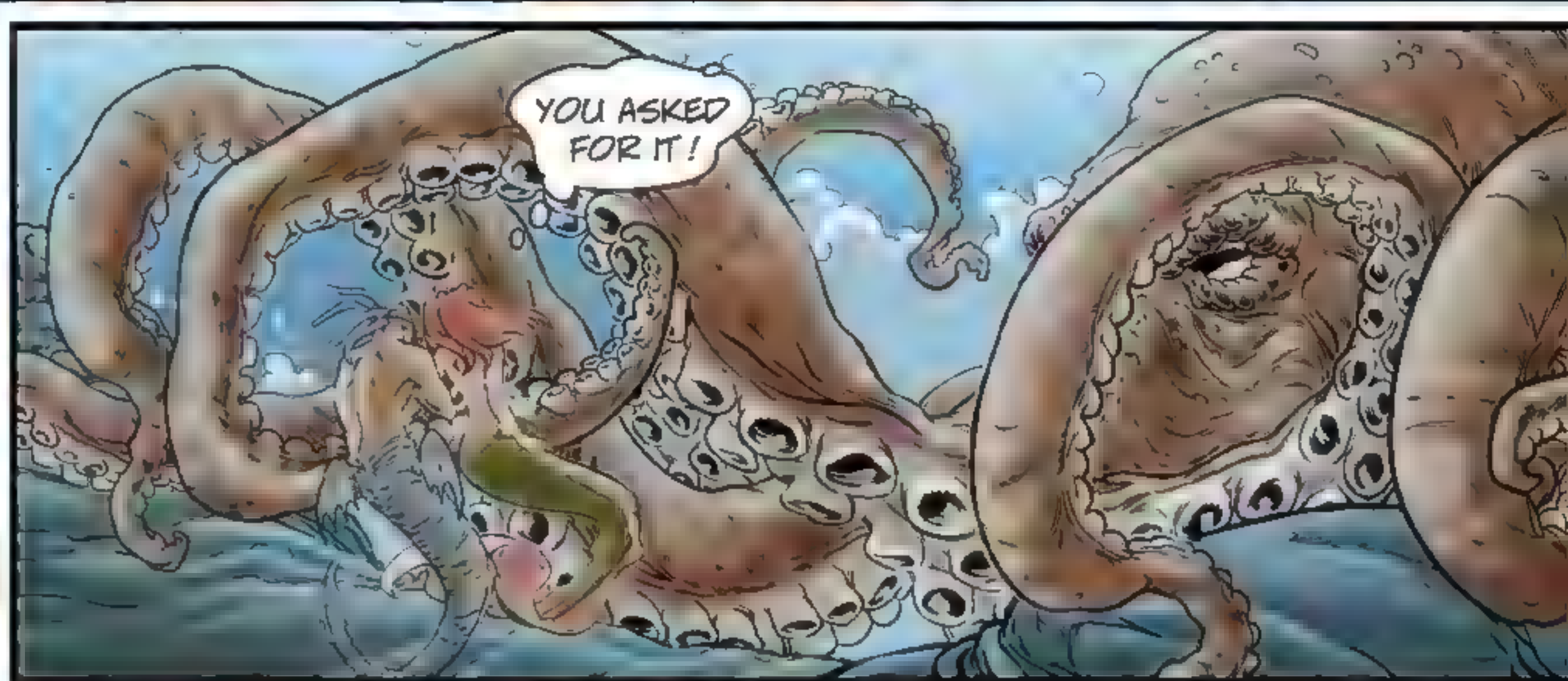
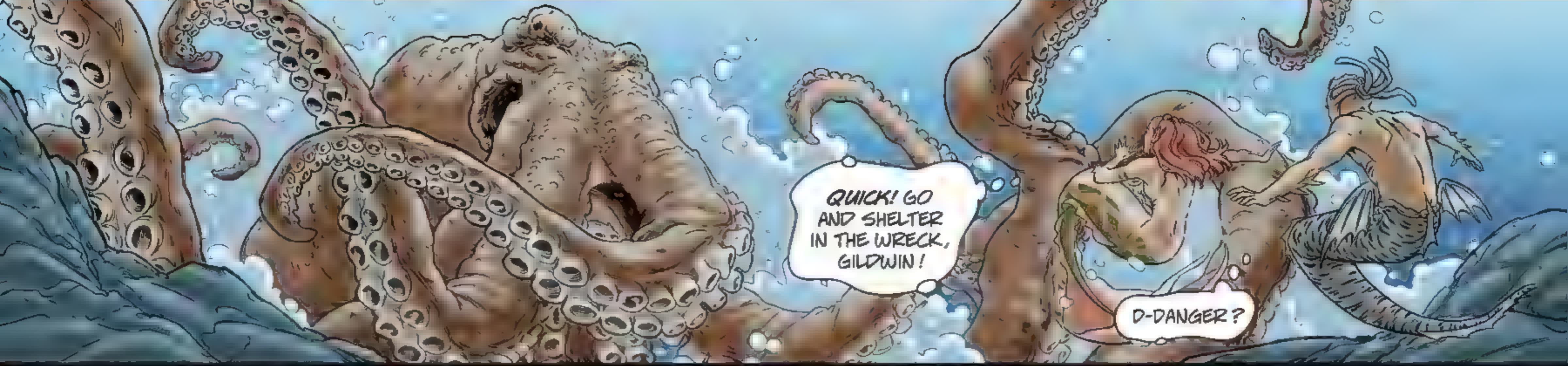


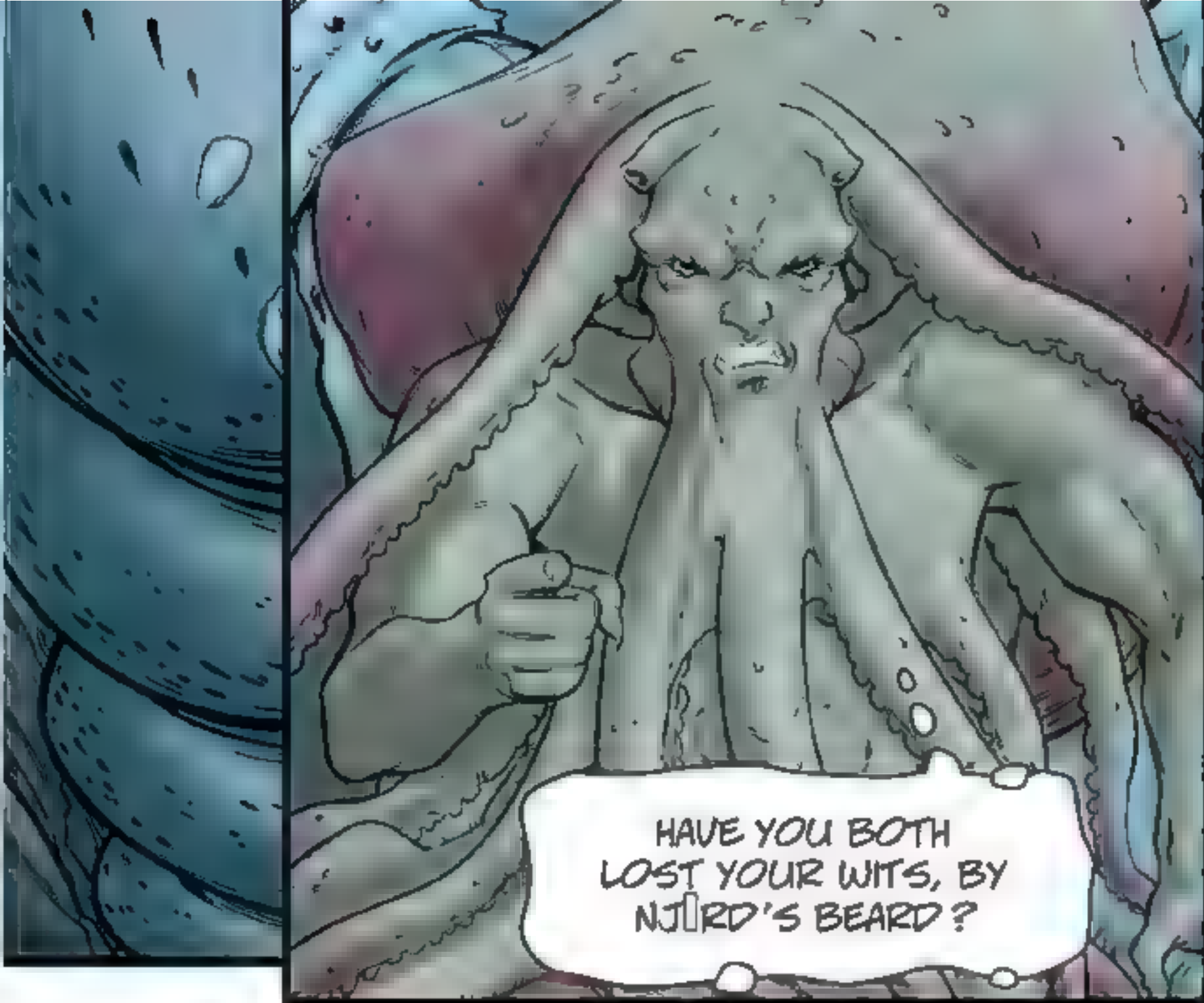
Jeg ved e slot,
deets vaeg og tag.



er grønne bølger lag på lag







HAVE YOU BOTH
LOST YOUR WITS, BY
NJIRD'S BEARD?



OUR LAWS ARE SACRED!
YOU KNOW THAT BETTER
THAN ANYONE!

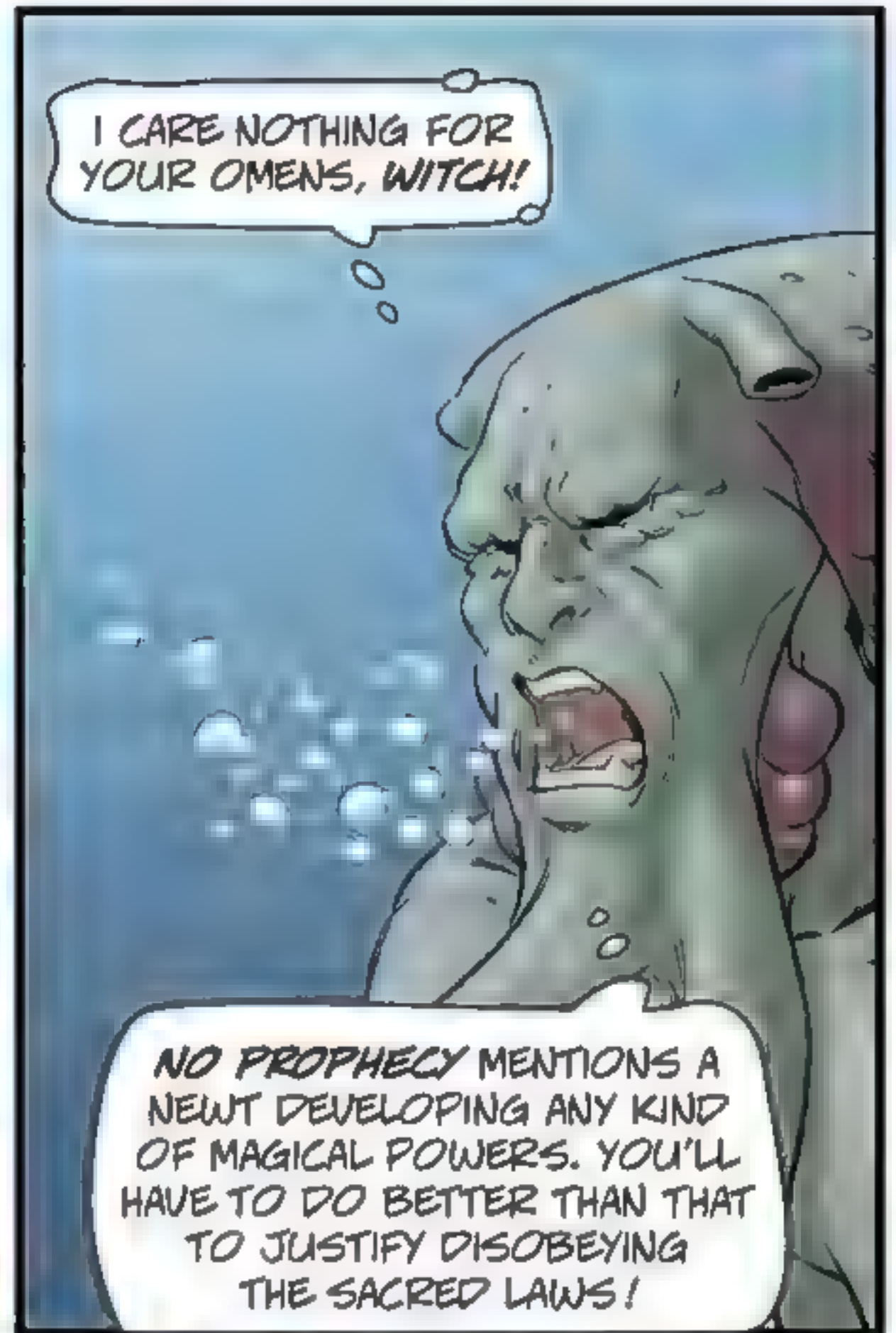
HOW DARE YOU
BREAK THEM
BEHIND MY BACK?!



BUT OUR
LAWS MERELY
COVER VARIOUS
GENERALITIES,
DEAR HUSBAND.
THIS SITUATION
IS AN EXCEPTION
TO THE RULE.



SEE FOR
YOURSELF...



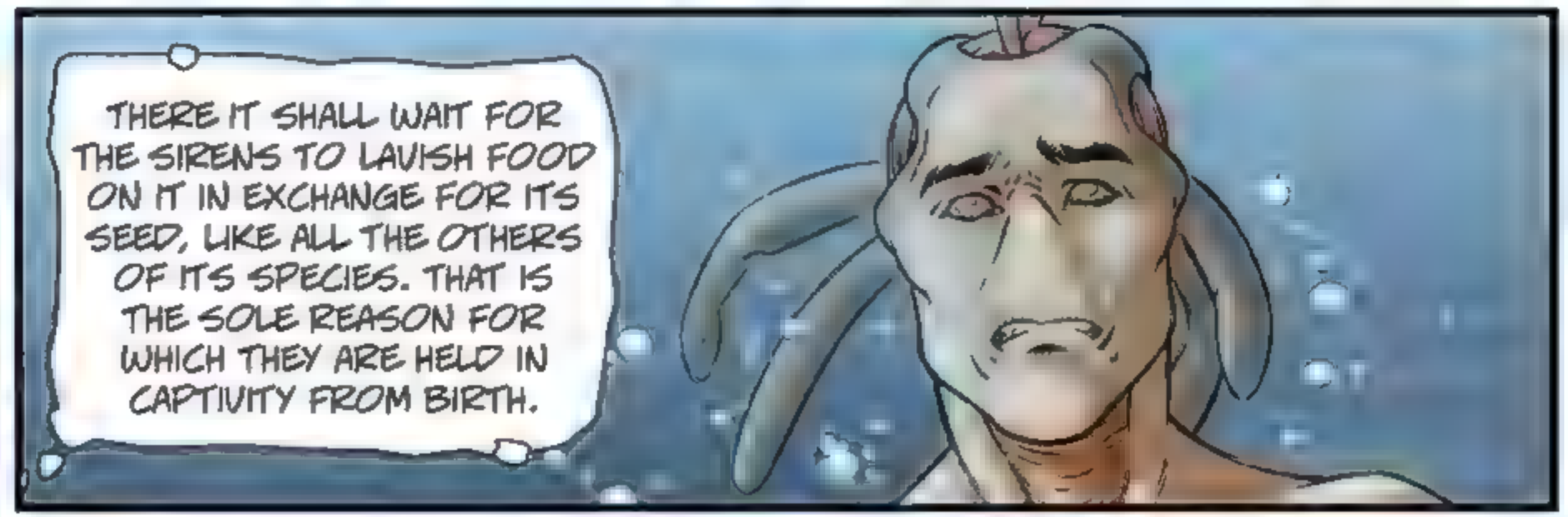
I CARE NOTHING FOR
YOUR OMENS, WITCH!

NO PROPHECY MENTIONS A
NEWT DEVELOPING ANY KIND
OF MAGICAL POWERS. YOU'LL
HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT
TO JUSTIFY DISOBEYING
THE SACRED LAWS!

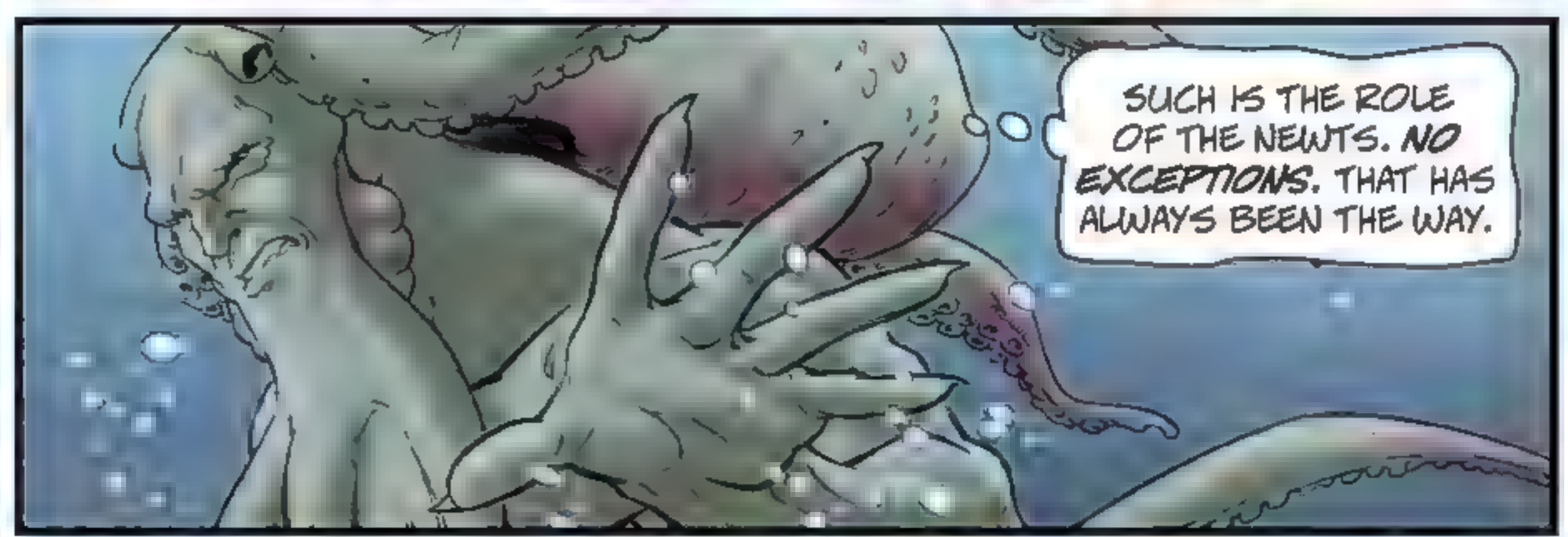


BUT I SHALL SHOW CLEMENCY. I ORDER
THE NEWT TO BE RETURNED TO THE
CAVE AND ITS KIND. IMMEDIATELY!

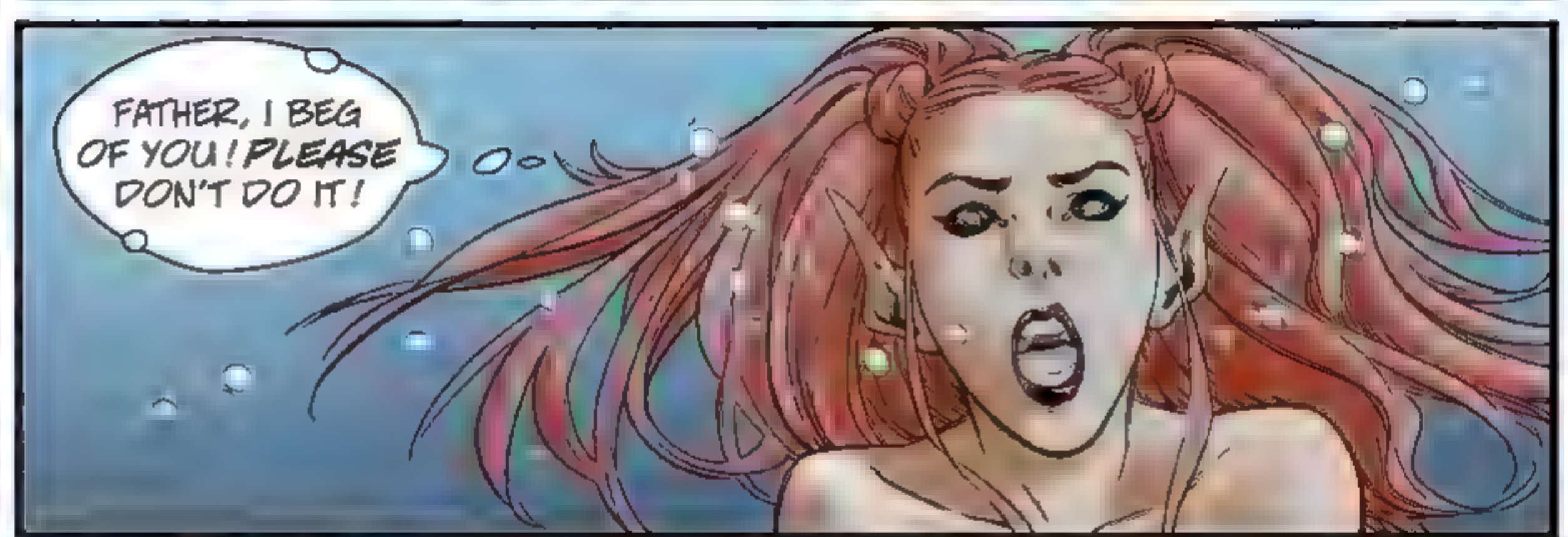
N-NO!



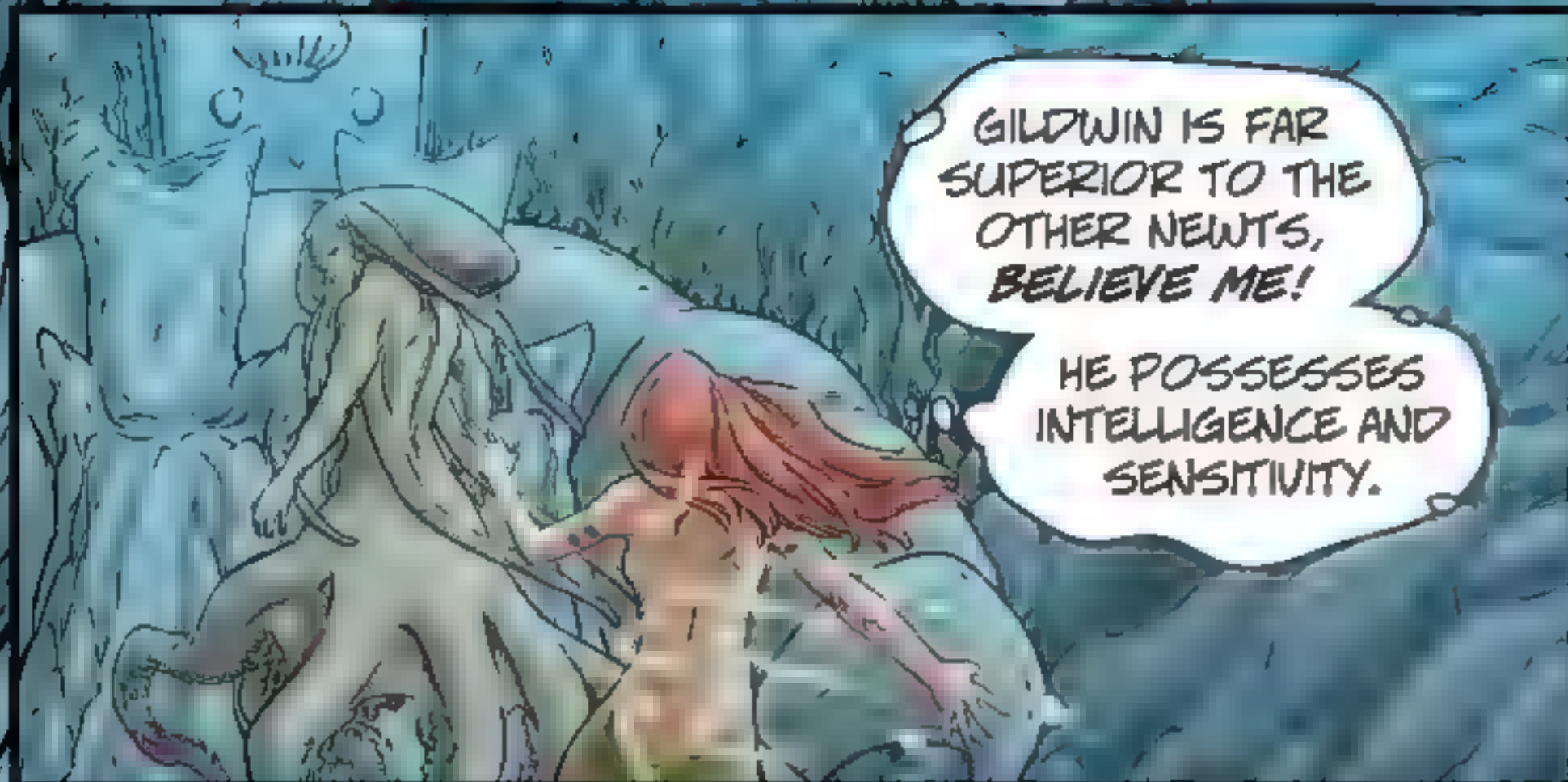
THERE IT SHALL WAIT FOR
THE SIRENS TO LAVISH FOOD
ON IT IN EXCHANGE FOR ITS
SEED, LIKE ALL THE OTHERS
OF ITS SPECIES. THAT IS
THE SOLE REASON FOR
WHICH THEY ARE HELD IN
CAPTIVITY FROM BIRTH.



SUCH IS THE ROLE
OF THE NEWTS. NO
EXCEPTIONS. THAT HAS
ALWAYS BEEN THE WAY.

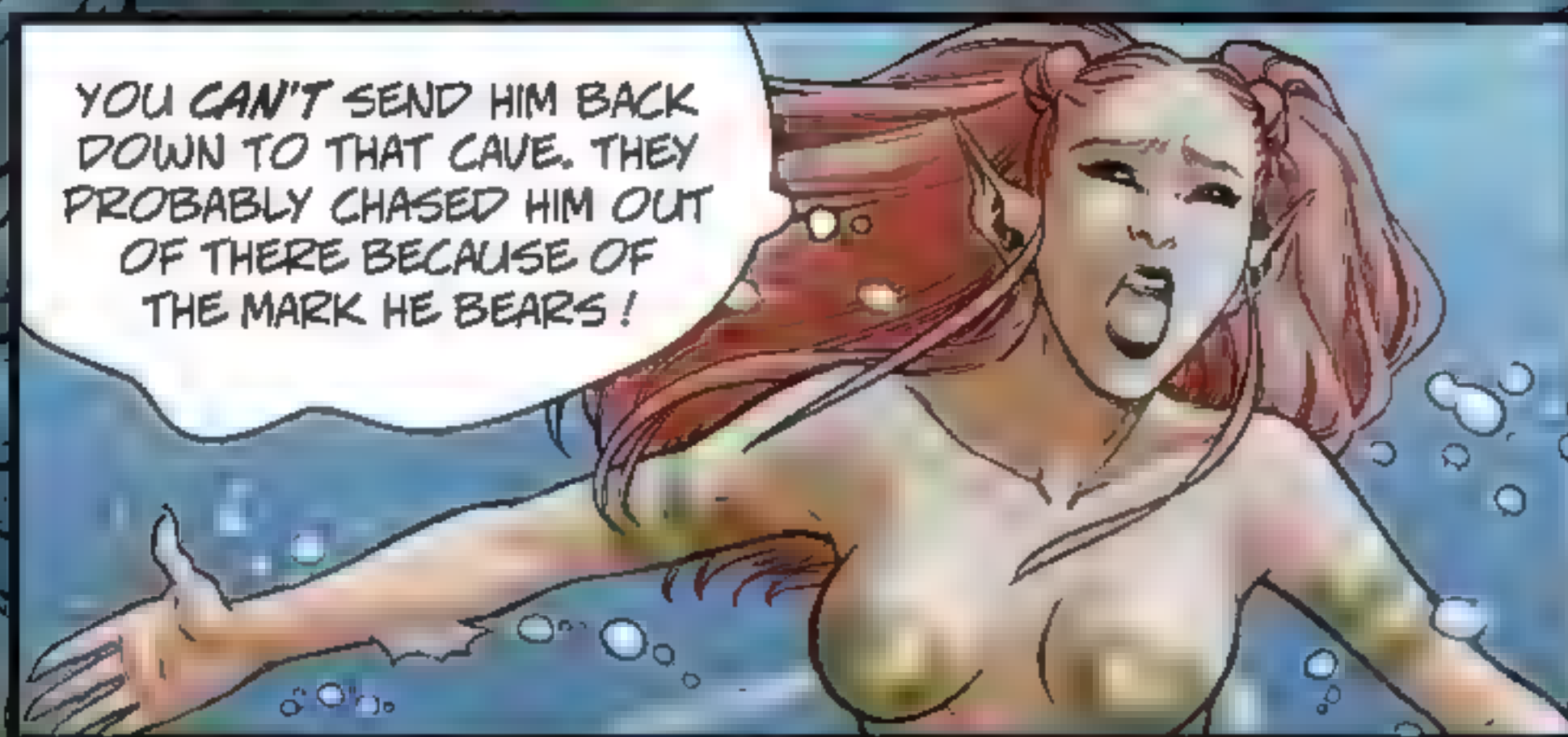


FATHER, I BEG
OF YOU! PLEASE
DON'T DO IT!



GILDWIN IS FAR SUPERIOR TO THE OTHER NEWTS, BELIEVE ME!

HE POSSESSES INTELLIGENCE AND SENSITIVITY.



YOU CAN'T SEND HIM BACK DOWN TO THAT CAVE. THEY PROBABLY CHASED HIM OUT OF THERE BECAUSE OF THE MARK HE BEARS!



HOW DO YOU THINK HIS KIND WILL WELCOME HIM?

THEY'LL KILL HIM!



THROUGHOUT THESE MONTHS I'VE SPENT WITH HIM, I'VE LEARNED WHAT FRIENDSHIP MEANS. AND THAT BOND IS SEALED WITH OUR BLOOD!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?



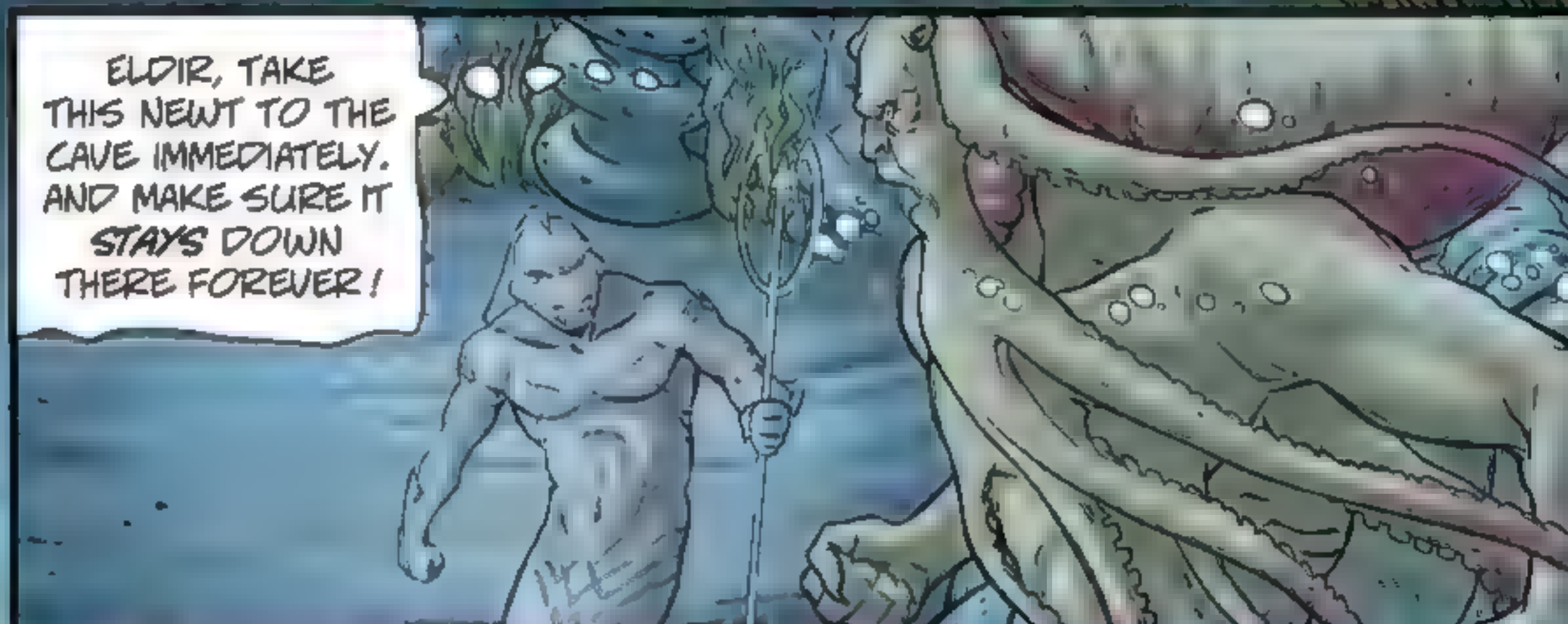
HE HAS AWOKEN SENTIMENTS IN ME THAT I THOUGHT I COULD NEVER FEEL AGAIN. I'M NOT WHO I USED TO BE. HIS VERY PRESENCE HAS TRANSFORMED ME!

YOU EVEN SAID IT YOURSELF!



SILENCE!

ONE MORE WORD AND I WILL SHUT YOU AWAY FOR TEN YEARS IN JORMUNGANDR'S STOMACH!



ELDIR, TAKE THIS NEWT TO THE CAVE IMMEDIATELY. AND MAKE SURE IT STAYS DOWN THERE FOREVER!

G-GILDWIN NEVER SEE BLODUGHADDA AGAIN?

I'M SORRY, GILDWIN, I SWEAR I'LL NEVER ABANDON YOU! REMEMBER, WE ARE BONDED BY OUR BLOOD.





THIS IS WHERE
YOU BELONG!

AND DON'T YOU
EVER TRY TO
ESCAPE, OR YOU
WILL DIE BY MY
TRIDENT--THAT
I PROMISE!

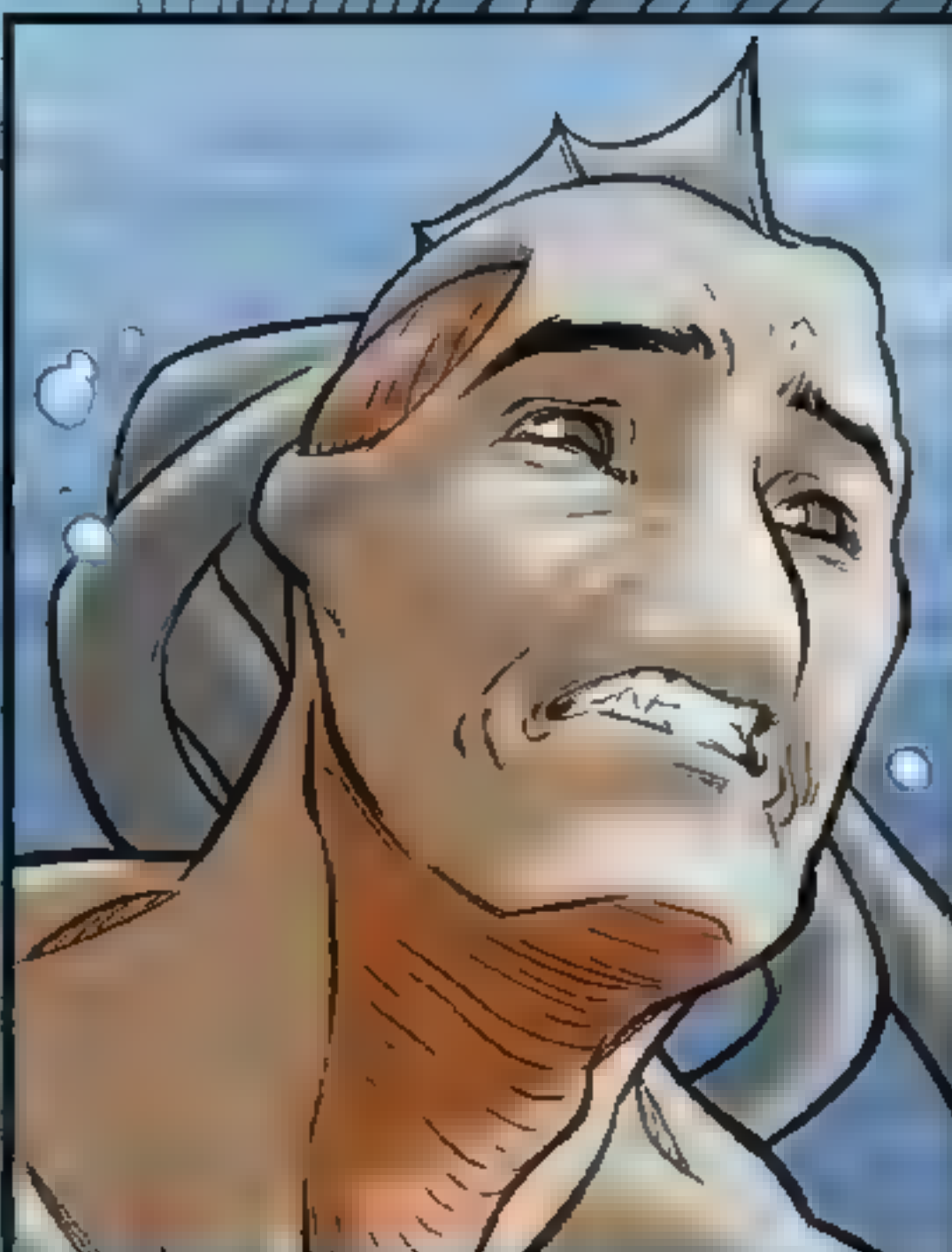


DEEEEMONN...

DEEEEMONN...

DEEEEMONN...

DEEEEMONN...

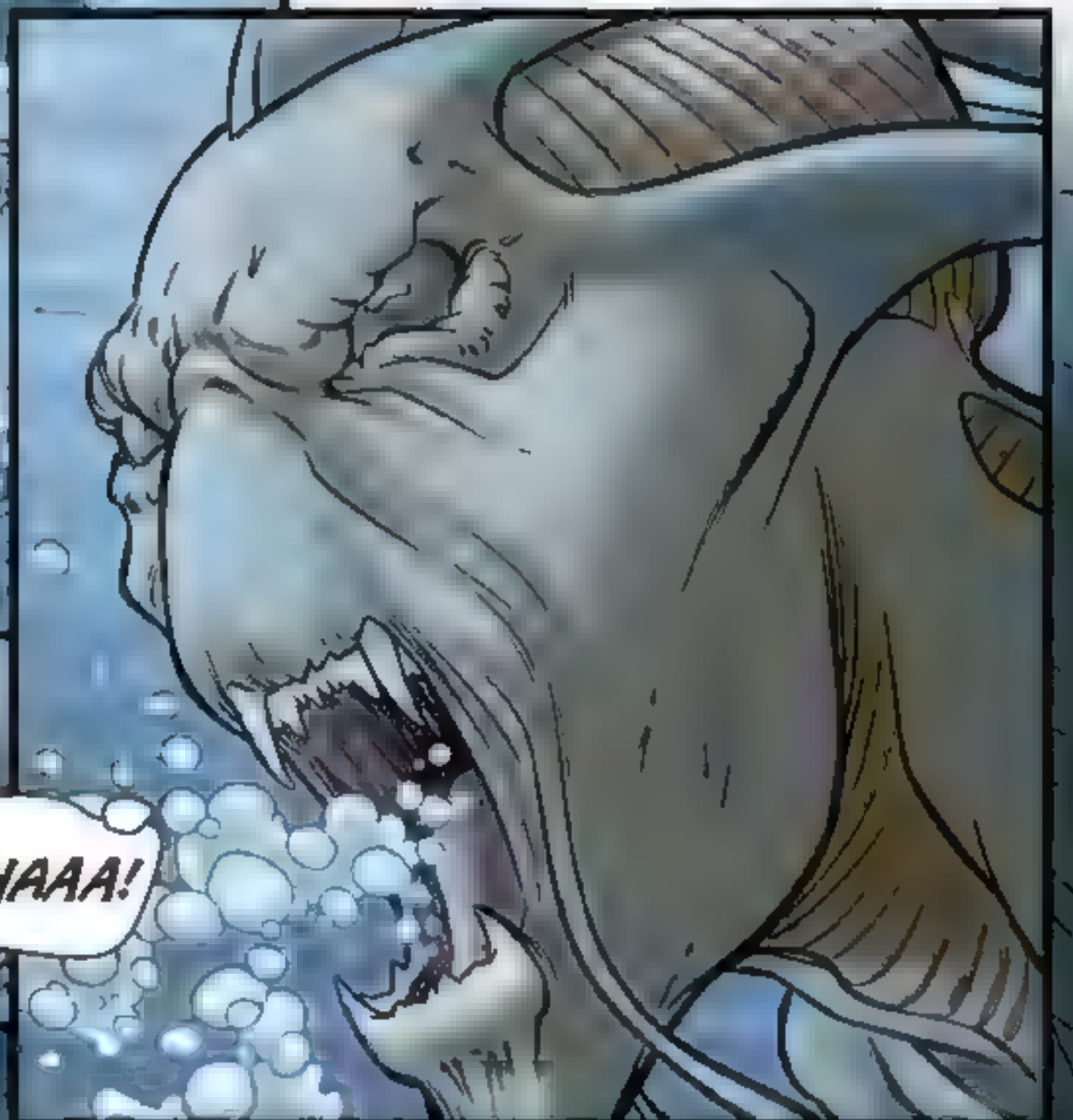
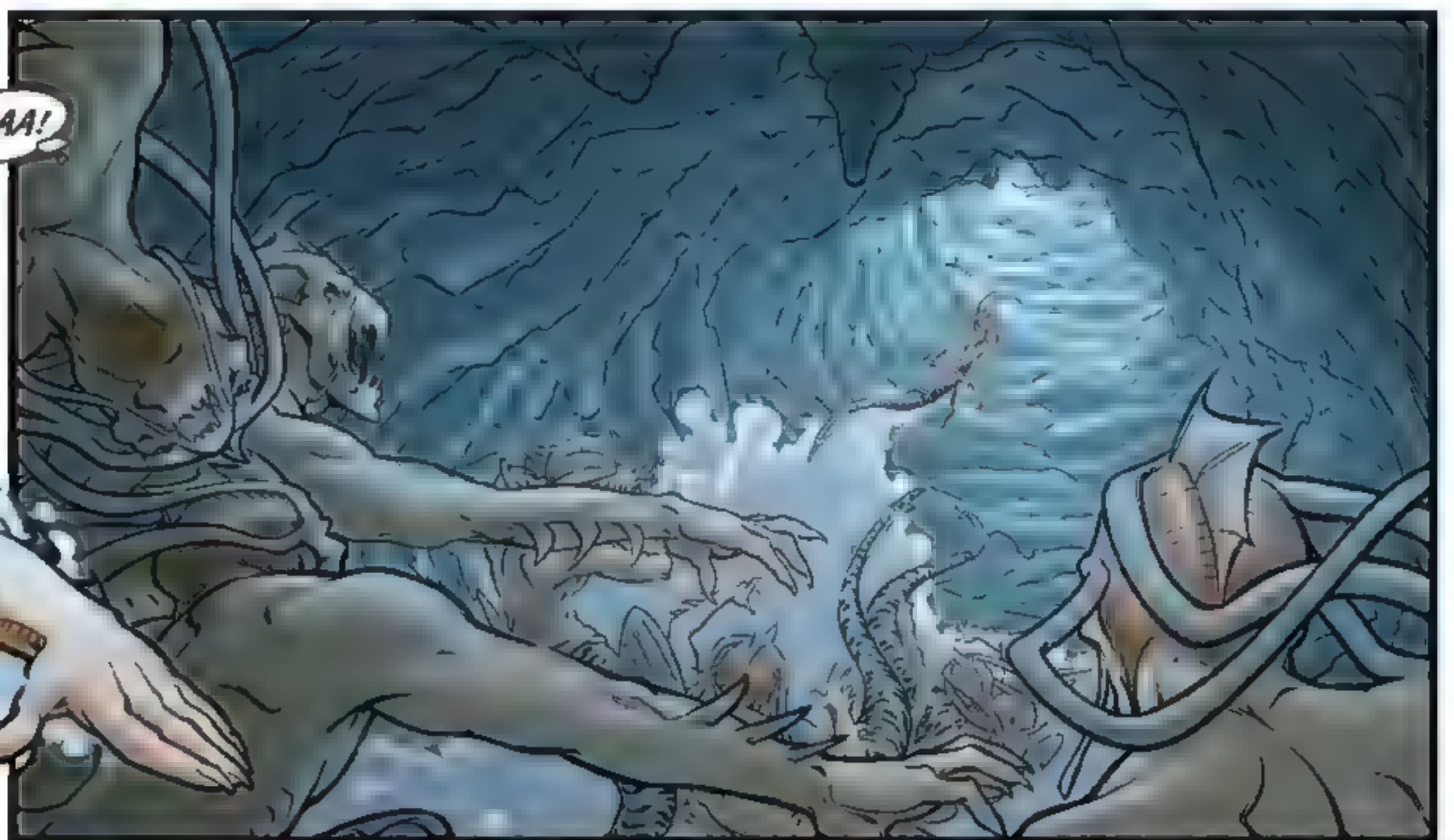
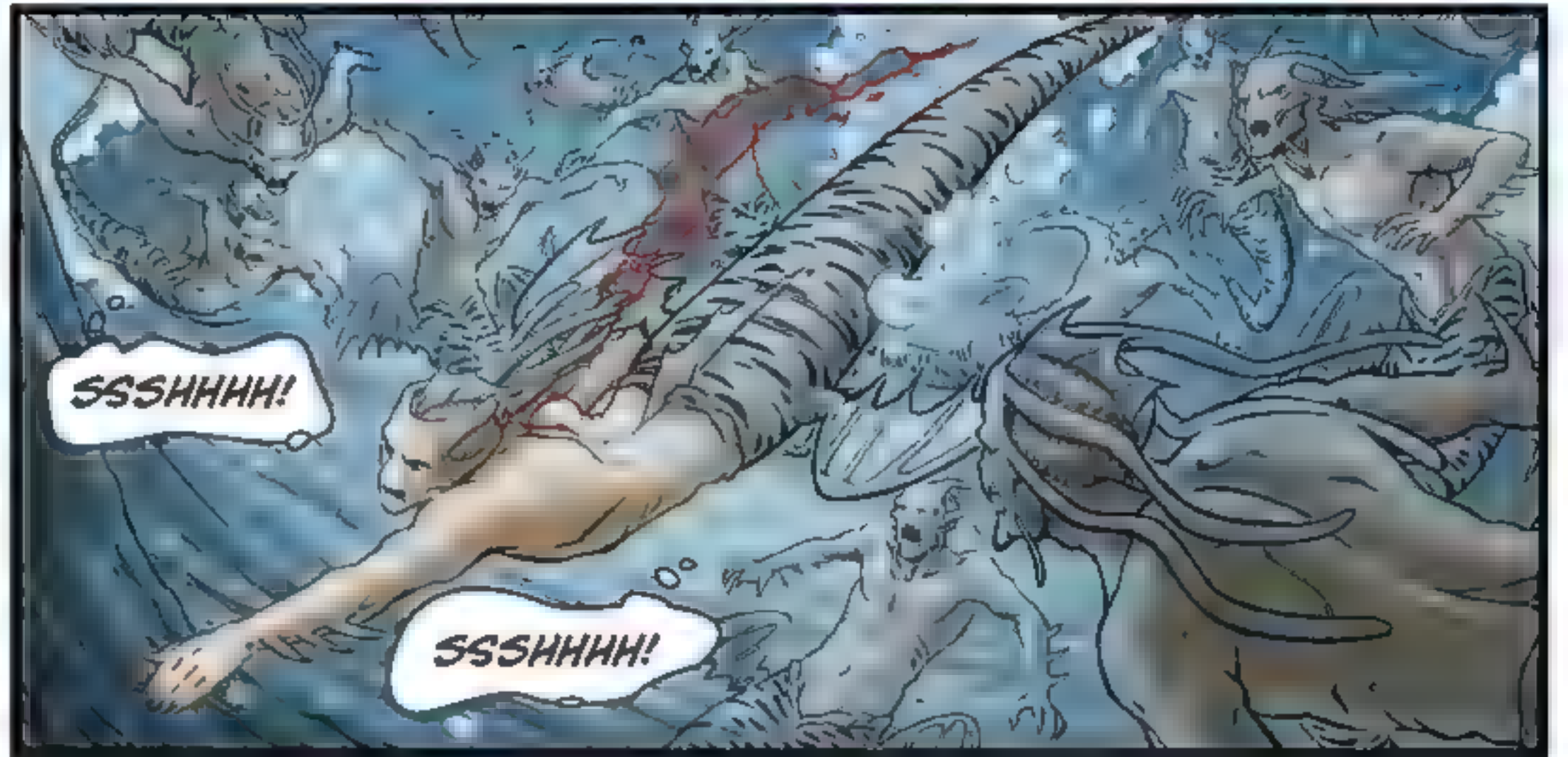
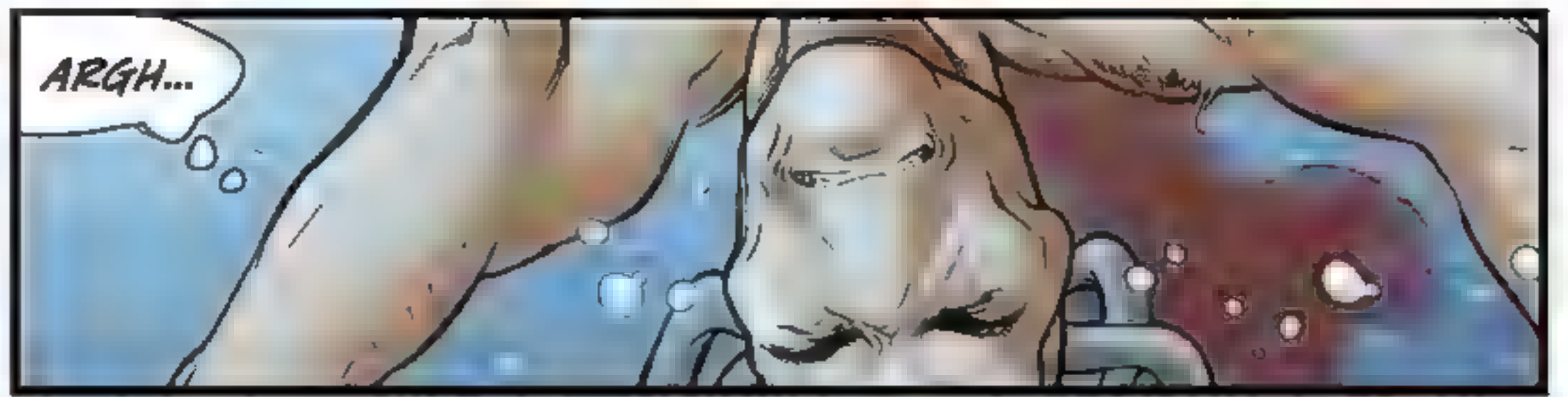


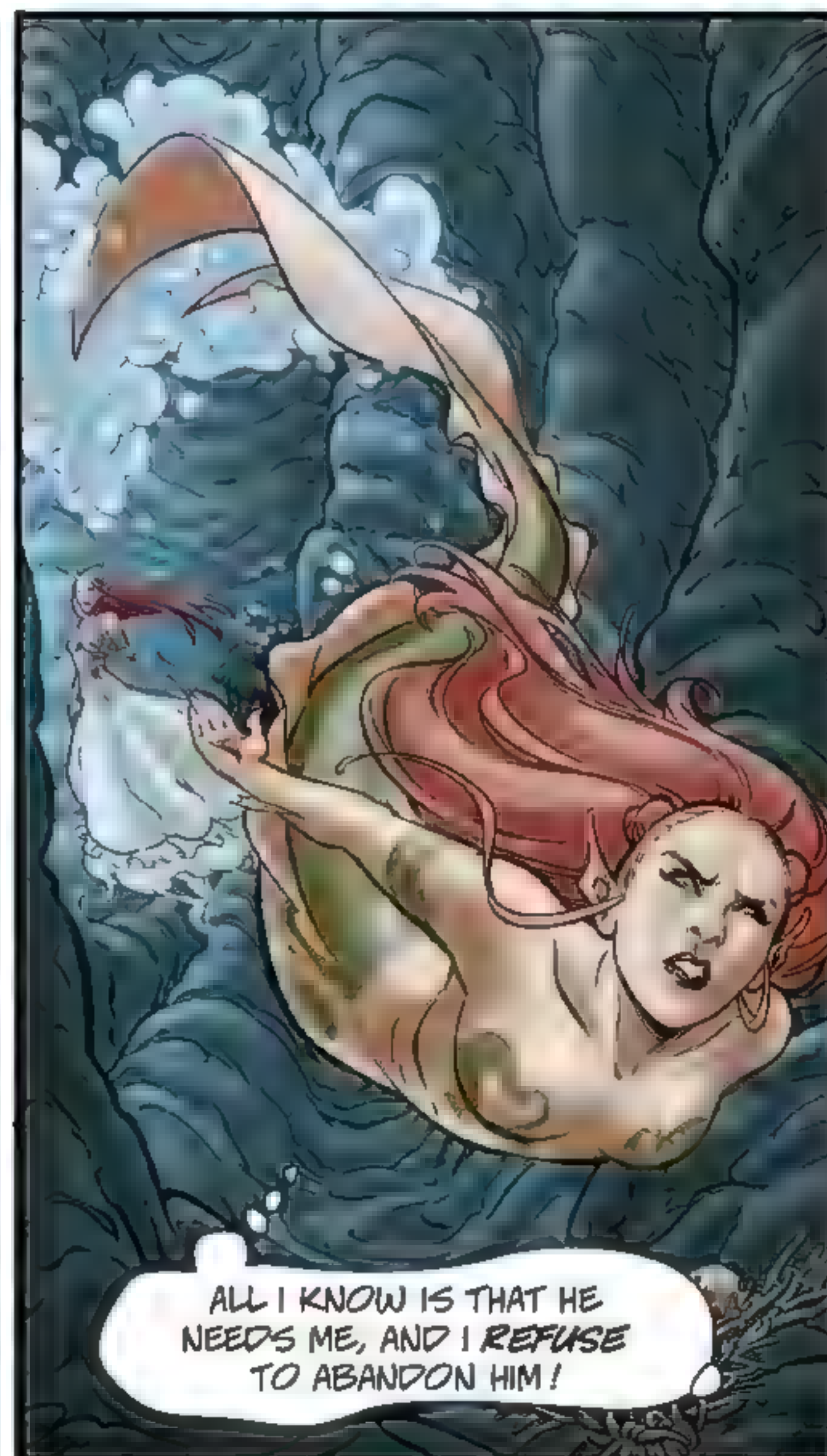
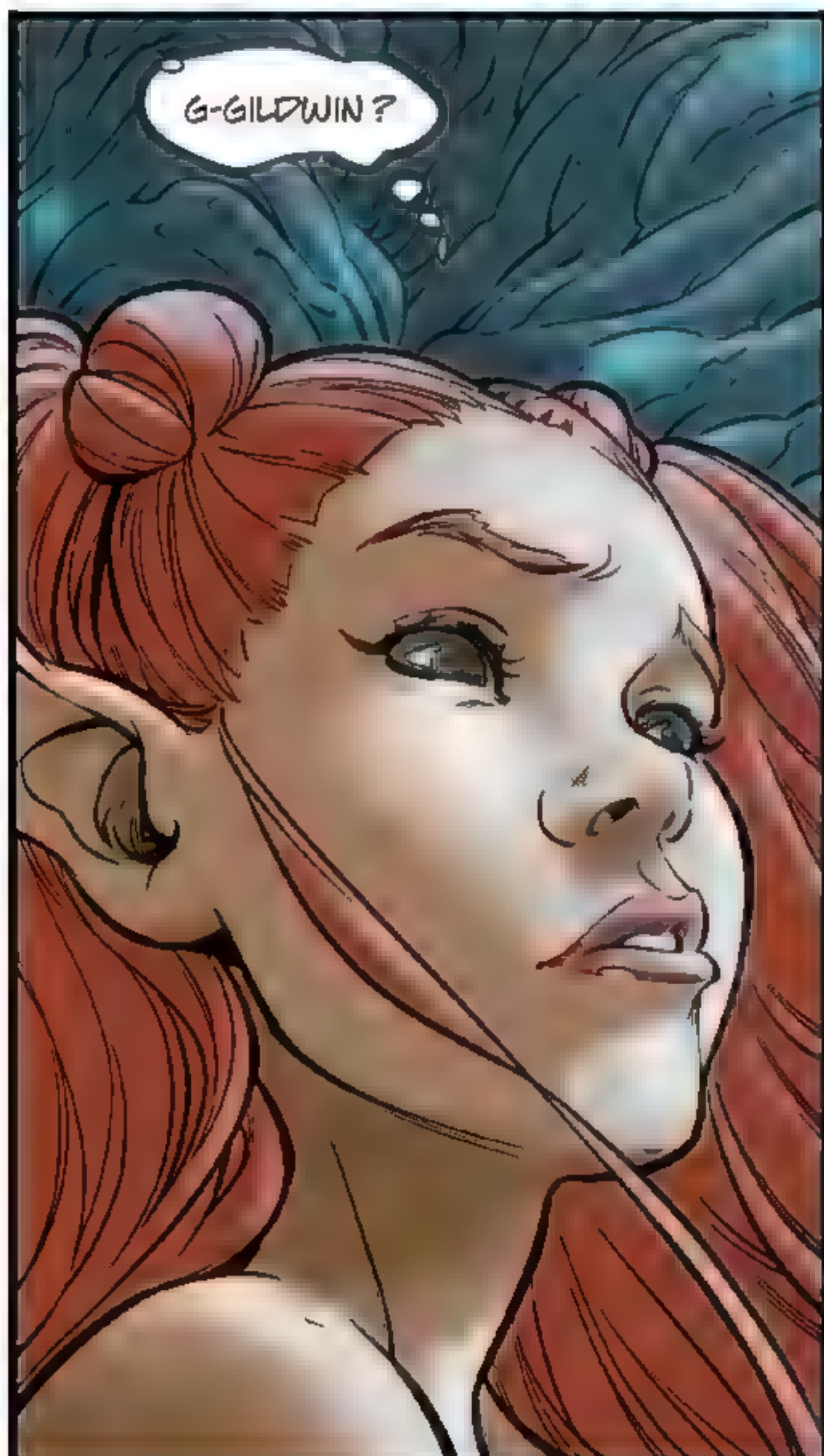
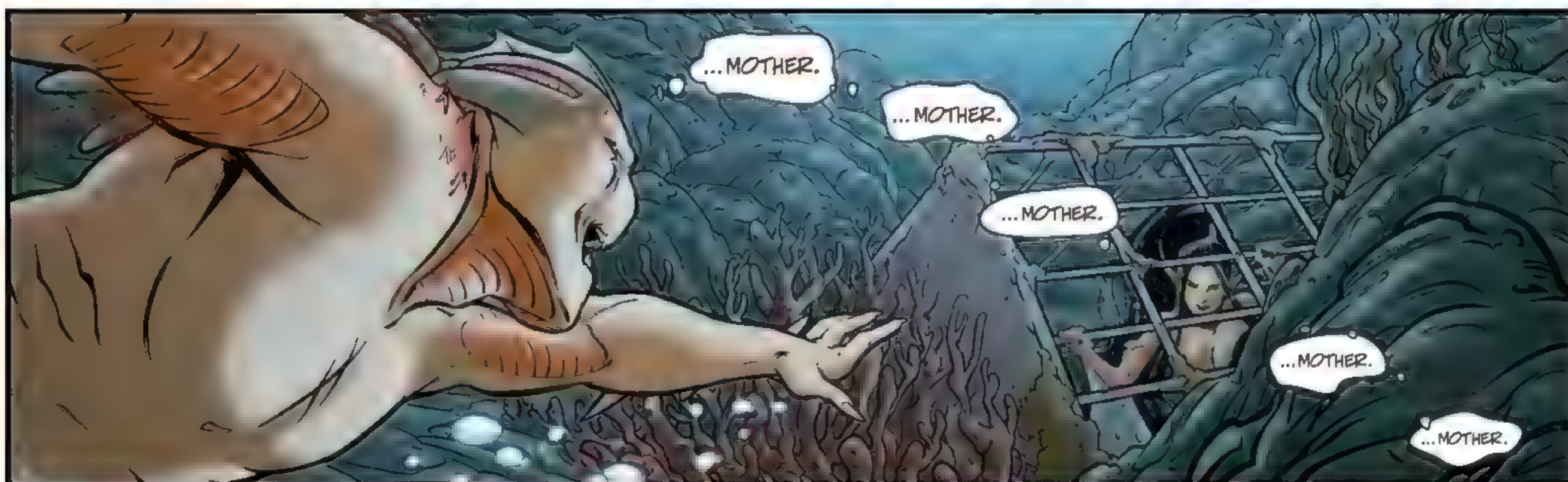
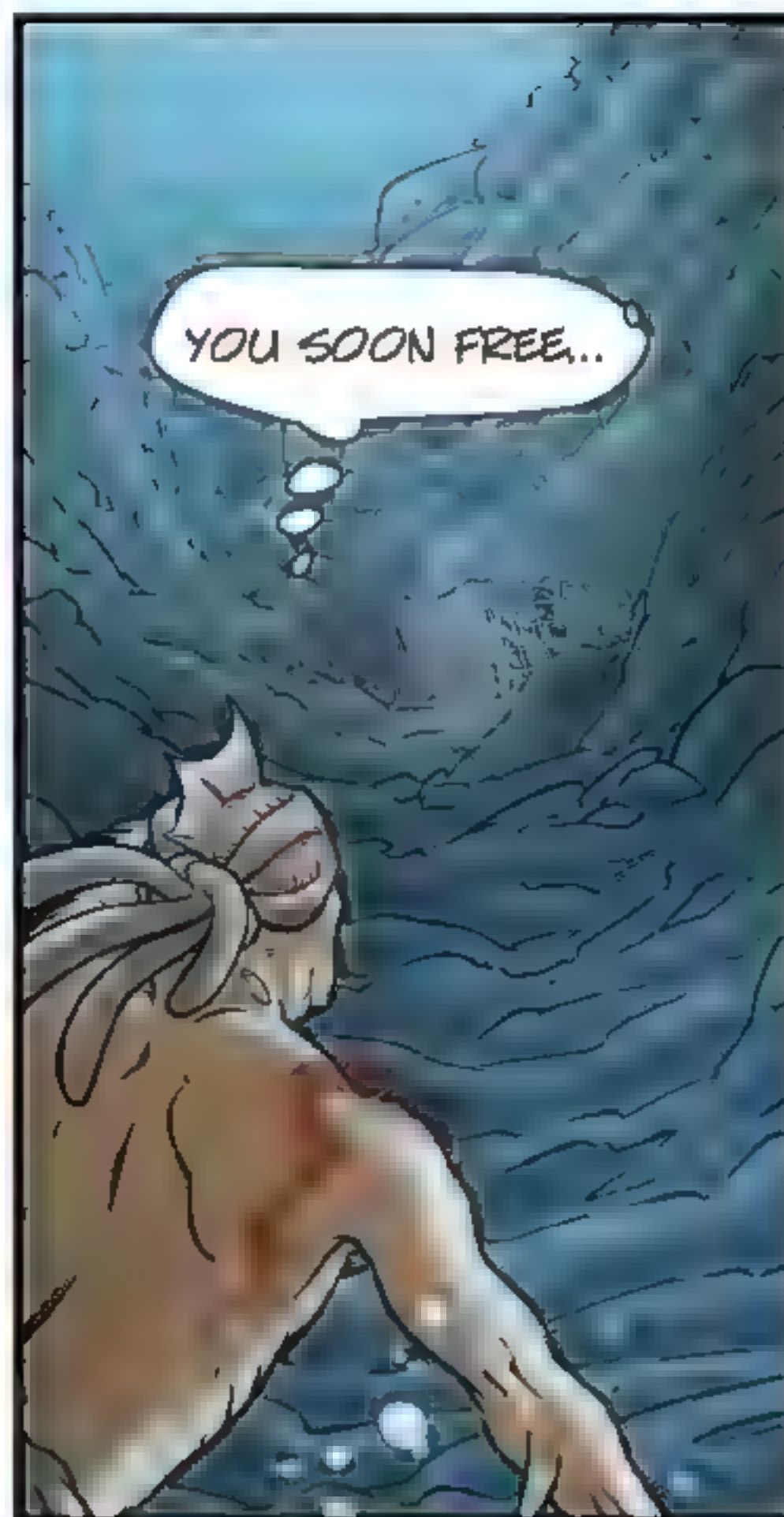
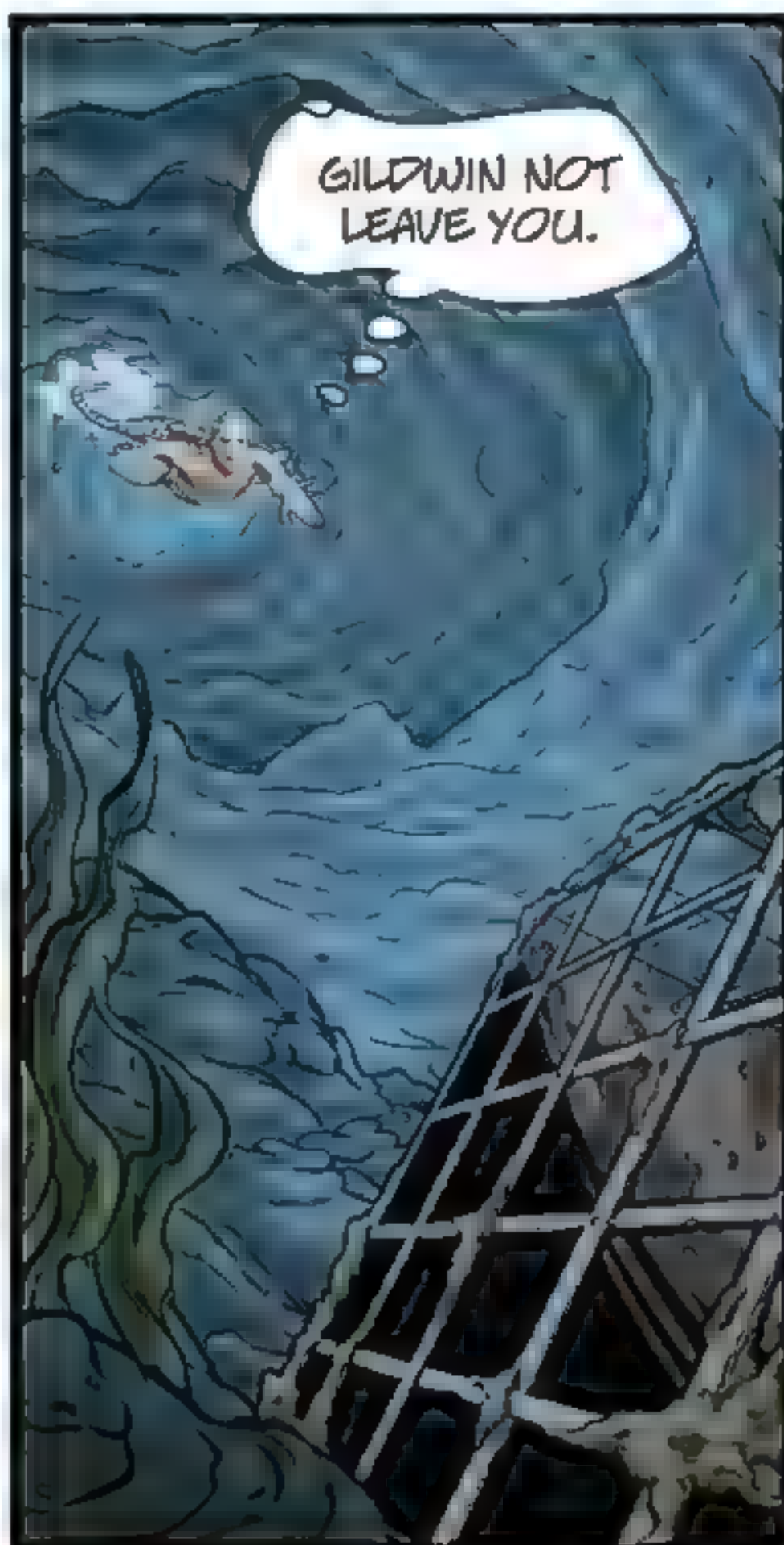
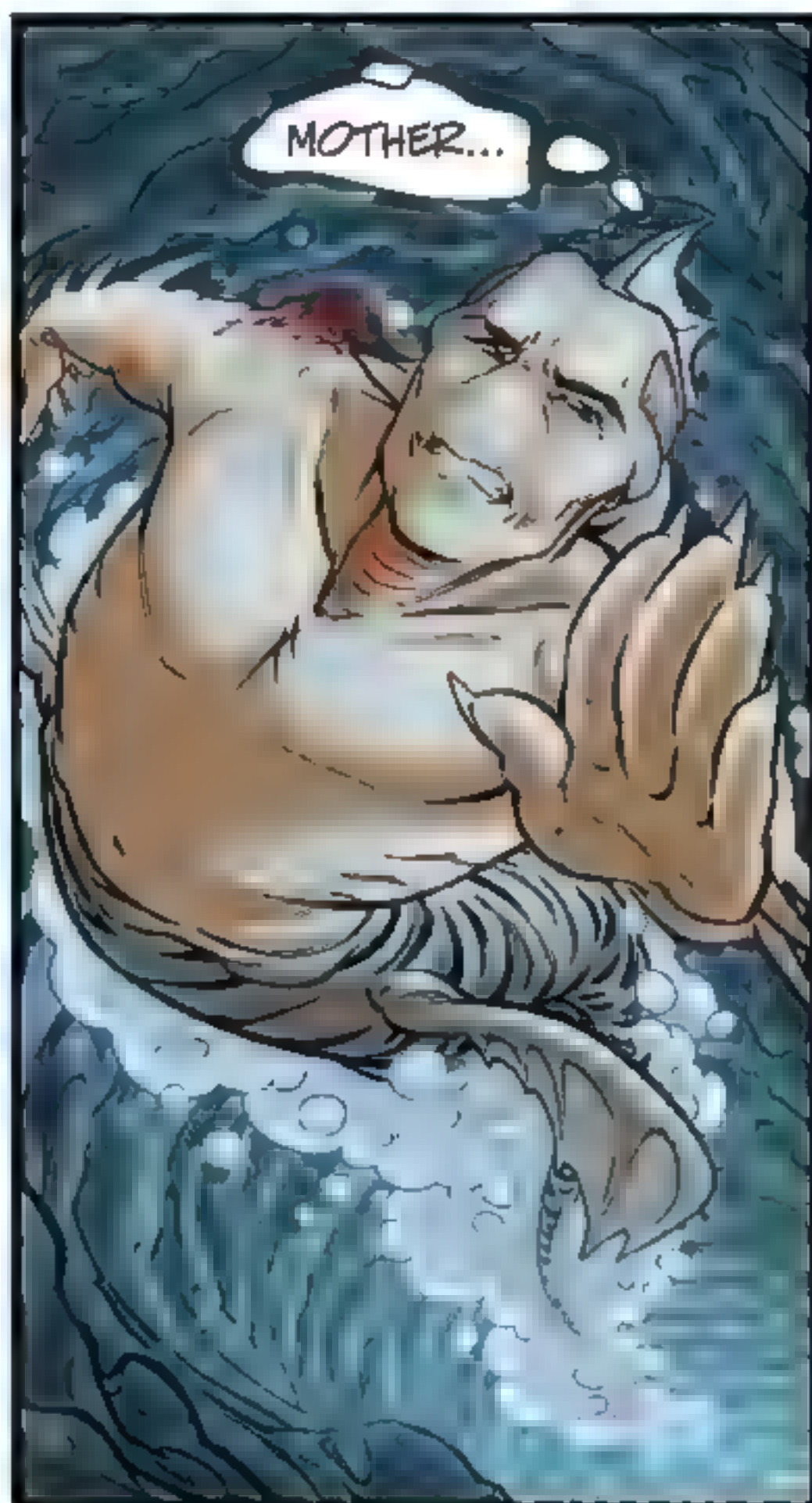
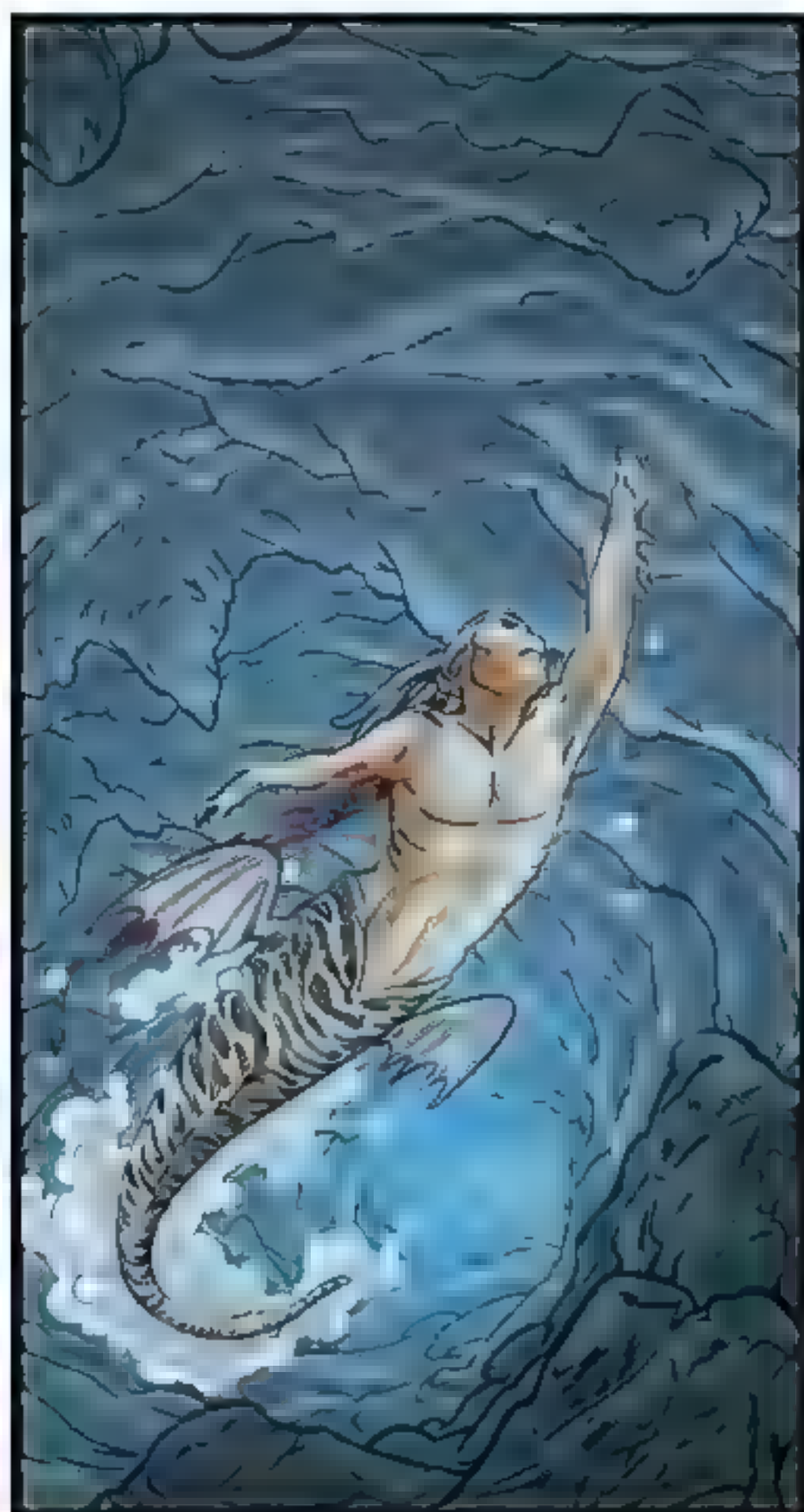
SSHHHHAAAAA!

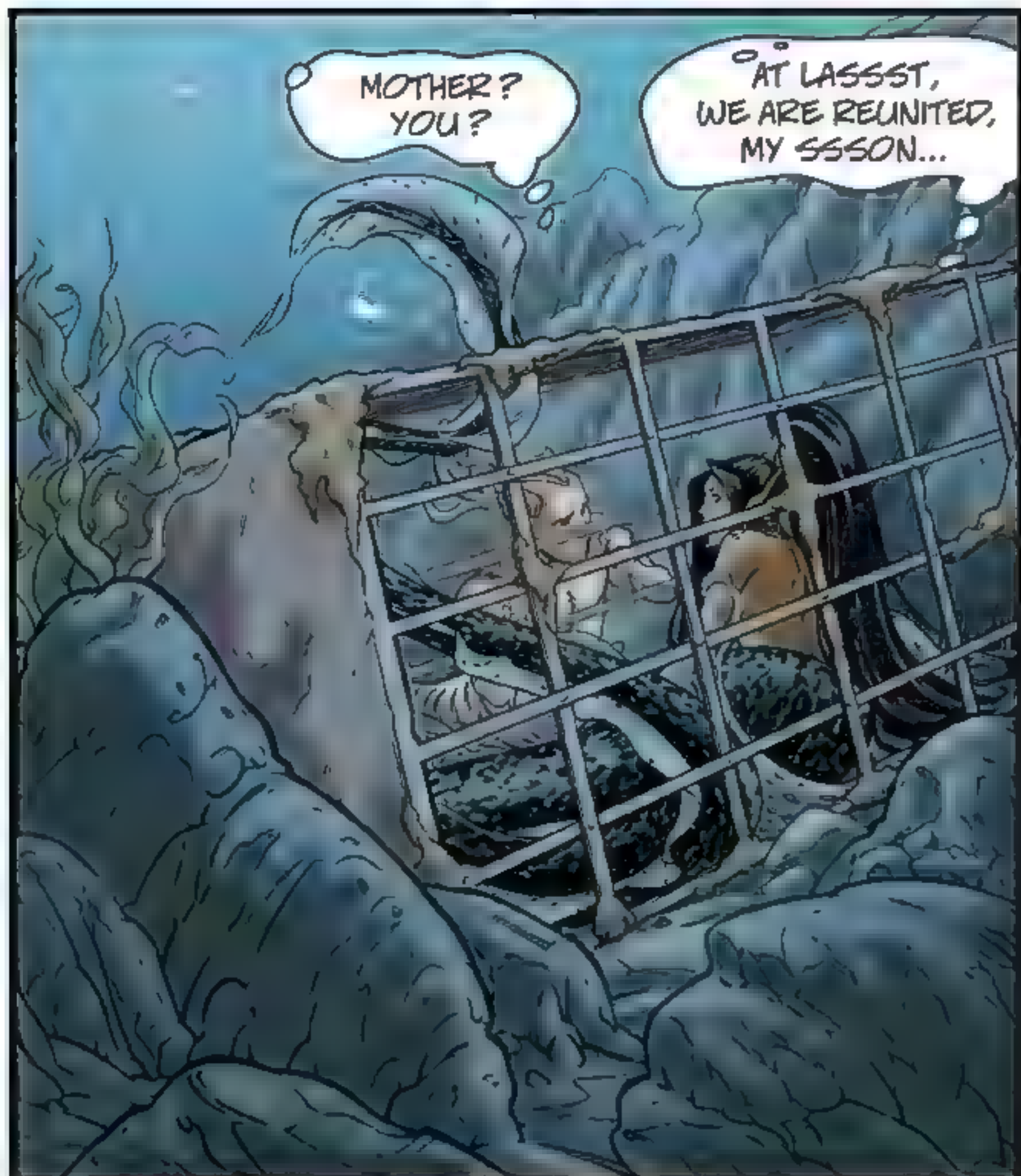


SSHHHHAAAAA!

SSHHHHAAAAA!

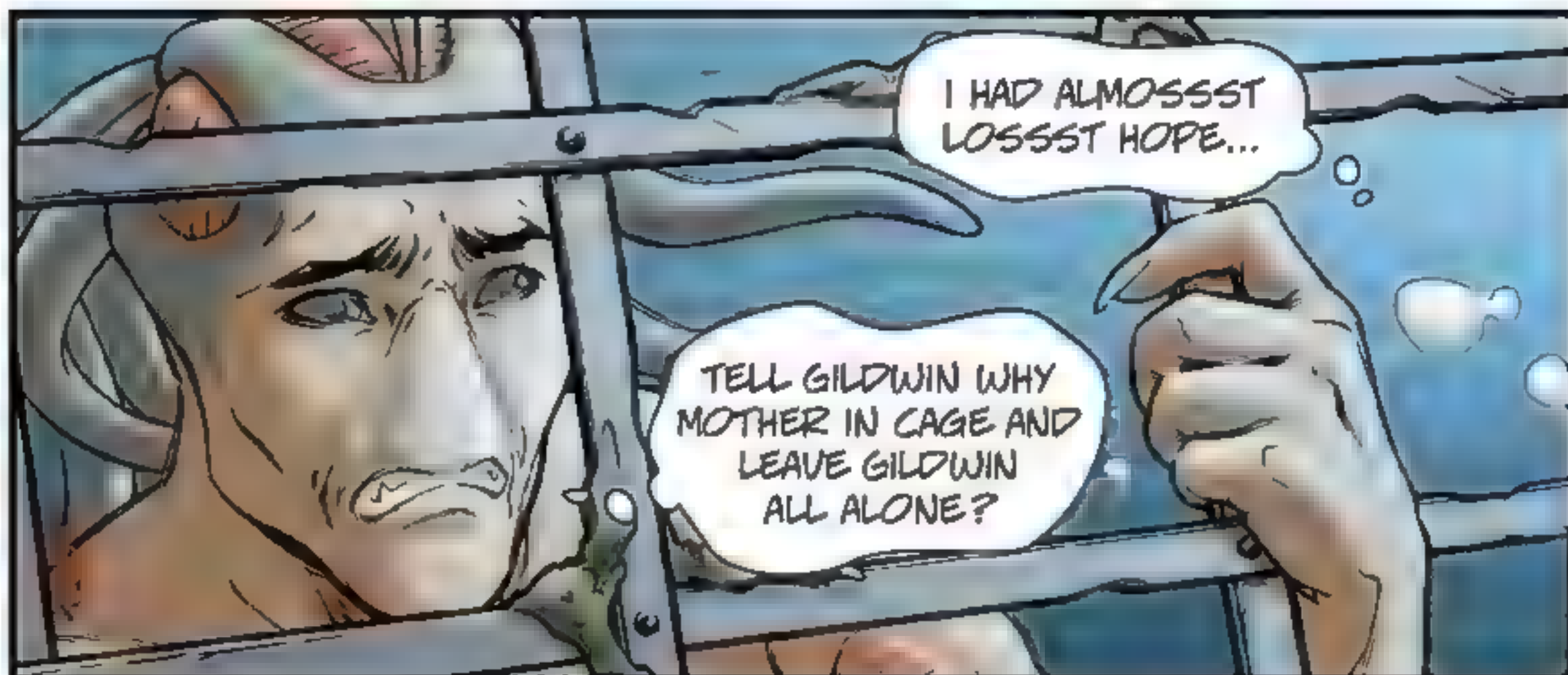






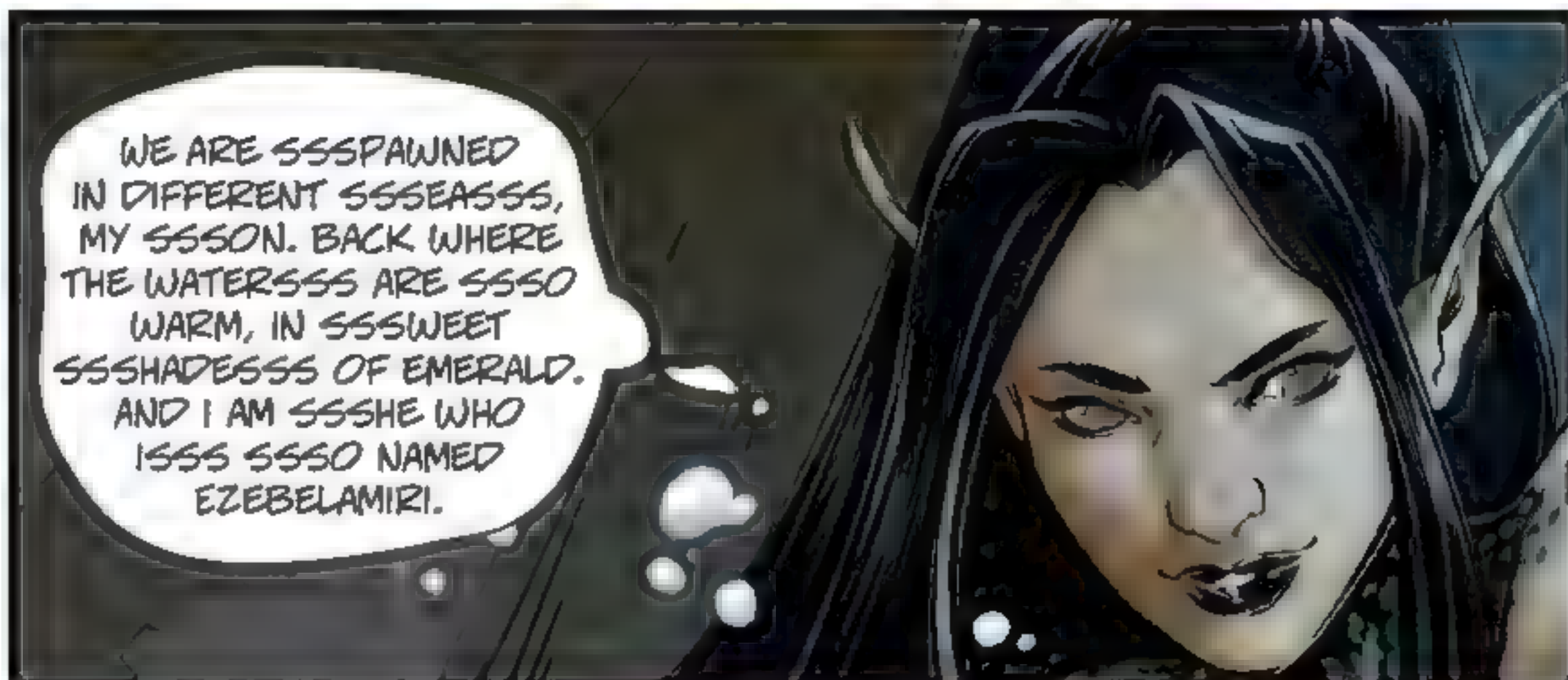
MOTHER?
YOU?

AT LASST,
WE ARE REUNITED,
MY SSSON...

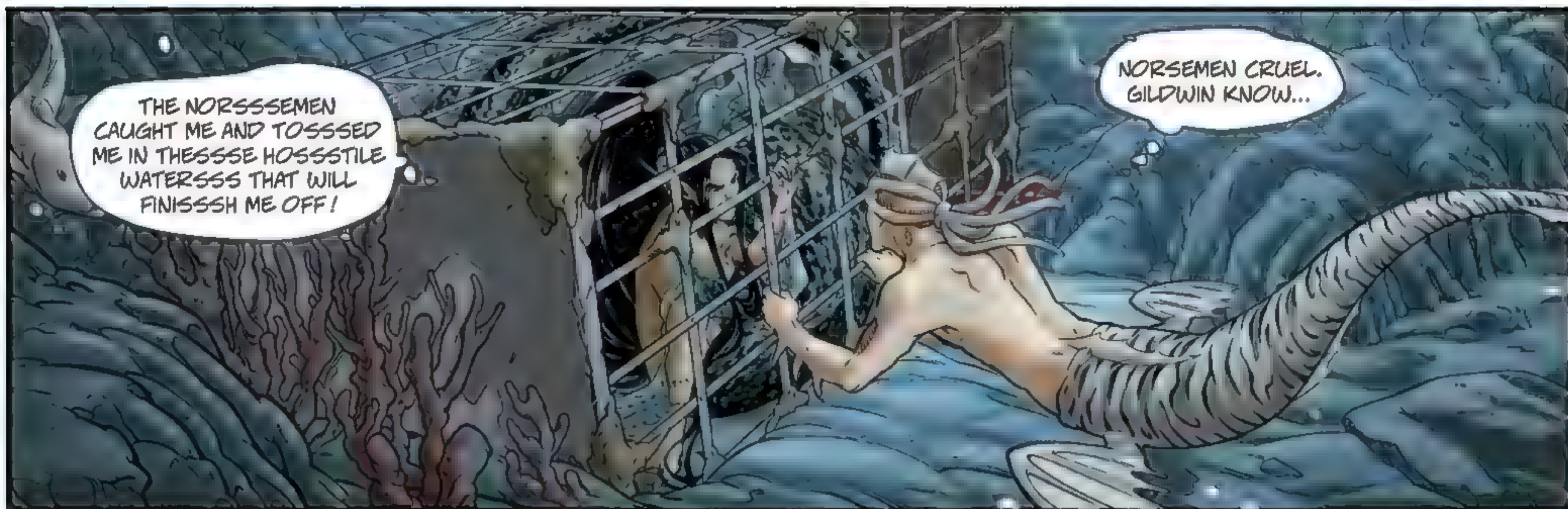


I HAD ALMOSSST
LOSSST HOPE...

TELL GILDWIN WHY
MOTHER IN CAGE AND
LEAVE GILDWIN
ALL ALONE?



WE ARE SSSPAWNED
IN DIFFERENT SSSSEASSS,
MY SSSON. BACK WHERE
THE WATERSSS ARE SSSO
WARM, IN SSSWEET
SSSHADESSS OF EMERALD.
AND I AM SSSHE WHO
ISSS SSSO NAMED
EZEBELAMIRI.



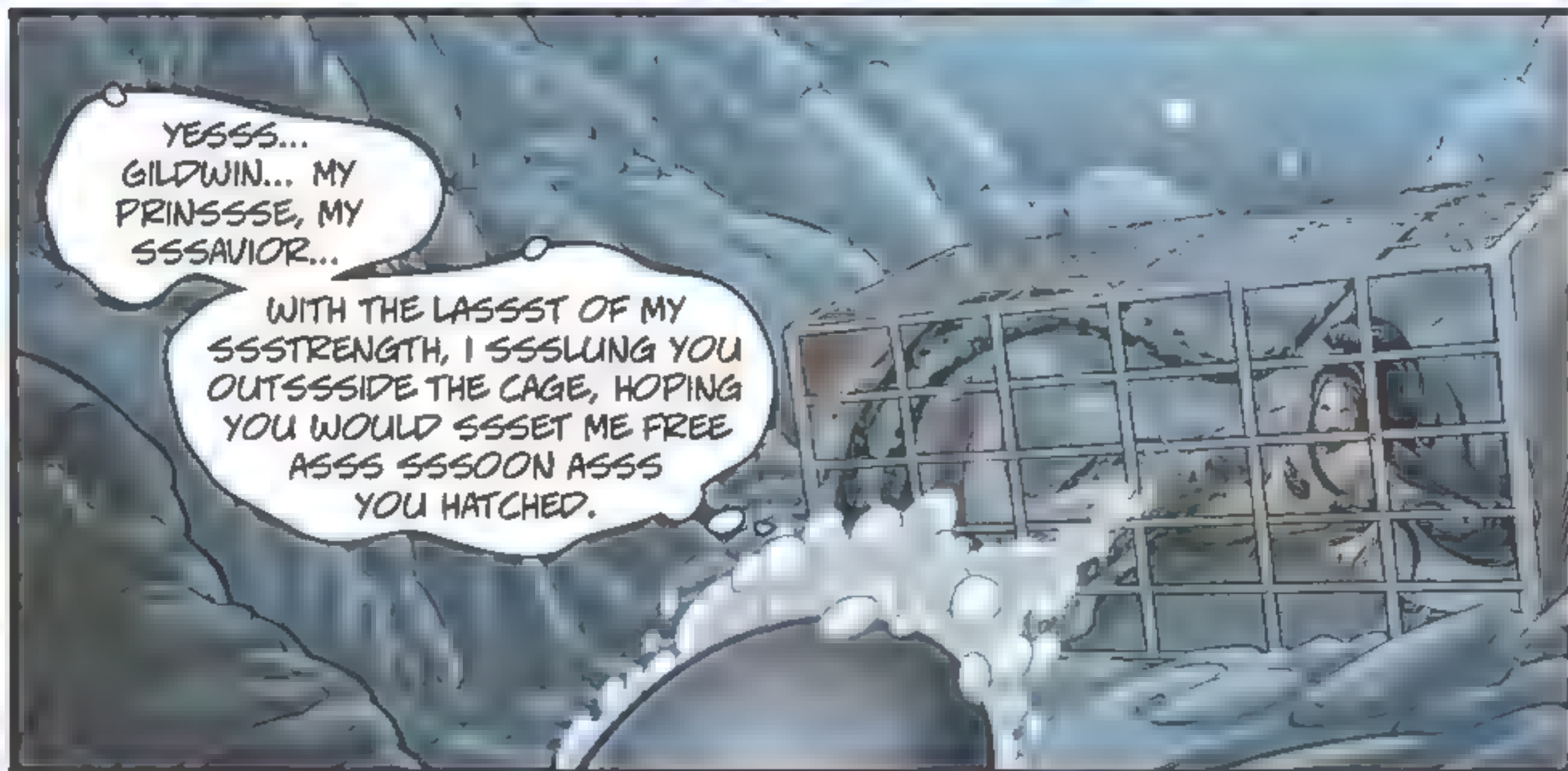
THE NORSSSEMEN
CAUGHT ME AND TOSSSED
ME IN THESSSE HOSSSTILE
WATERSSS THAT WILL
FINISSH ME OFF!

NORSEMEN CRUEL.
GILDWIN KNOW...



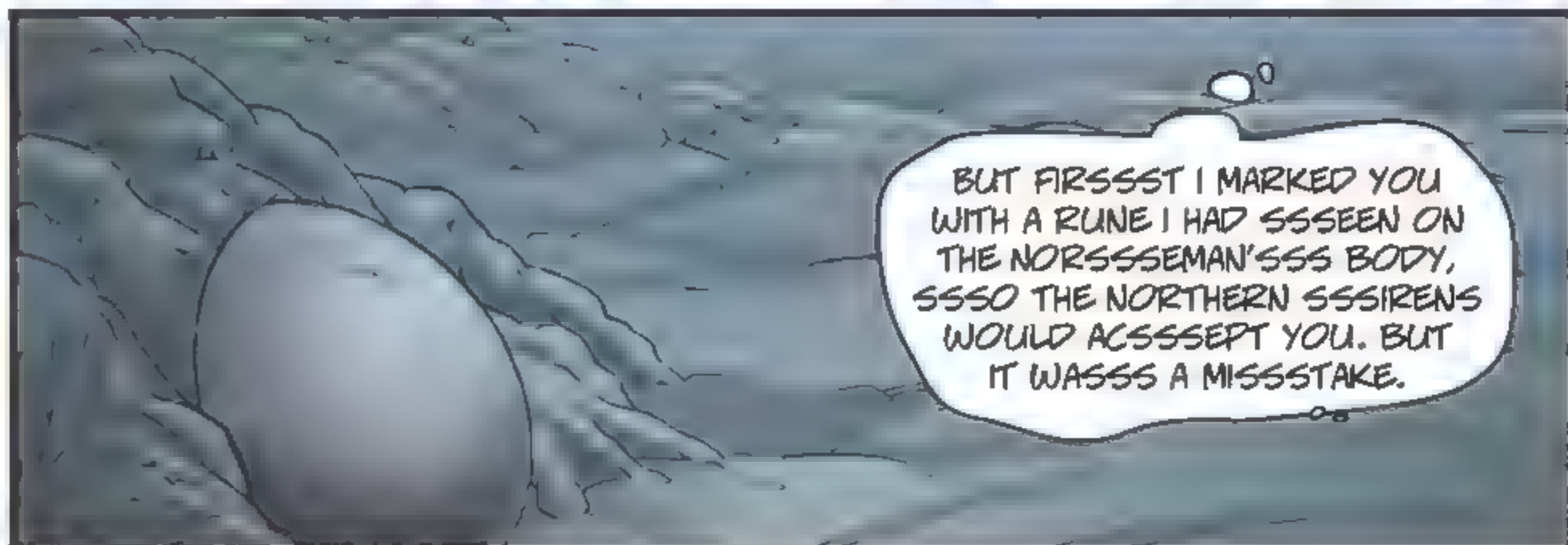
IT'SSS TRUE. BUT BEFORE I WASSS
LEFT TO PERISSH IN THISSS ABYSSS,
I MATED WITH ONE OF THE SSSAILORSSS
AND GAVE BIRTH TO A SSSINGLE EGG.

G-GILDWIN?



YESSS...
GILDWIN... MY
PRINSSSE, MY
SSSAVIOR...

WITH THE LASST OF MY
SSSTRENGTH, I SSSLING YOU
OUTSSSIDE THE CAGE, HOPING
YOU WOULD SSSET ME FREE
ASSS SSSOON ASSS
YOU HATCHED.



BUT FIRSSST I MARKED YOU
WITH A RUNE I HAD SSSEEN ON
THE NORSSSEMAN'SSS BODY,
SSSO THE NORTHERN SSSIRENS
WOULD ACSSSEPT YOU. BUT
IT WASSS A MISSSTAKE.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CALL YOU TO ME, USSING WHAT SSSSTRENGTH I HAD LEFT.

I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE IN THISSS PRISSON WITHOUT EVER SSSEEING YOU IN THE FLESSH.

AND NOW, PLEASSSE, MY SSSON, YOU MUSSST SSSET ME FREE...

YES. SET FREE. HOW?

MAYBE GILDWIN BREAK LOCK WITH ROCK?

GILDWIN! STOP!

BLODUGHADDA COME AFTER GILDWIN?

YES, GILDWIN. YOU AND I ARE BONDED BY OUR BLOOD, REMEMBER?

IF THIS CREATURE REALLY IS YOUR MOTHER, THEN PLEASE DON'T LET HER OUT.

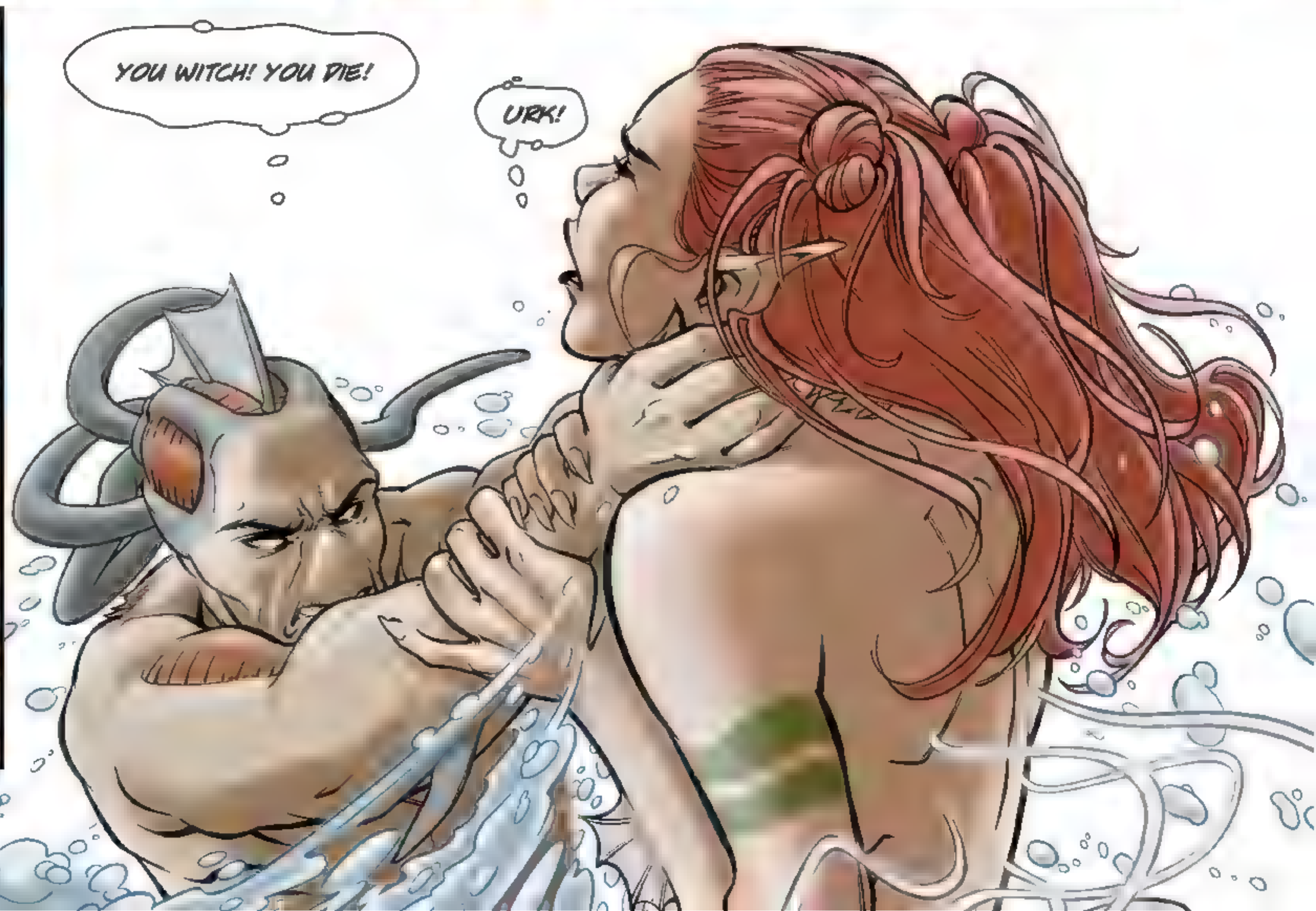
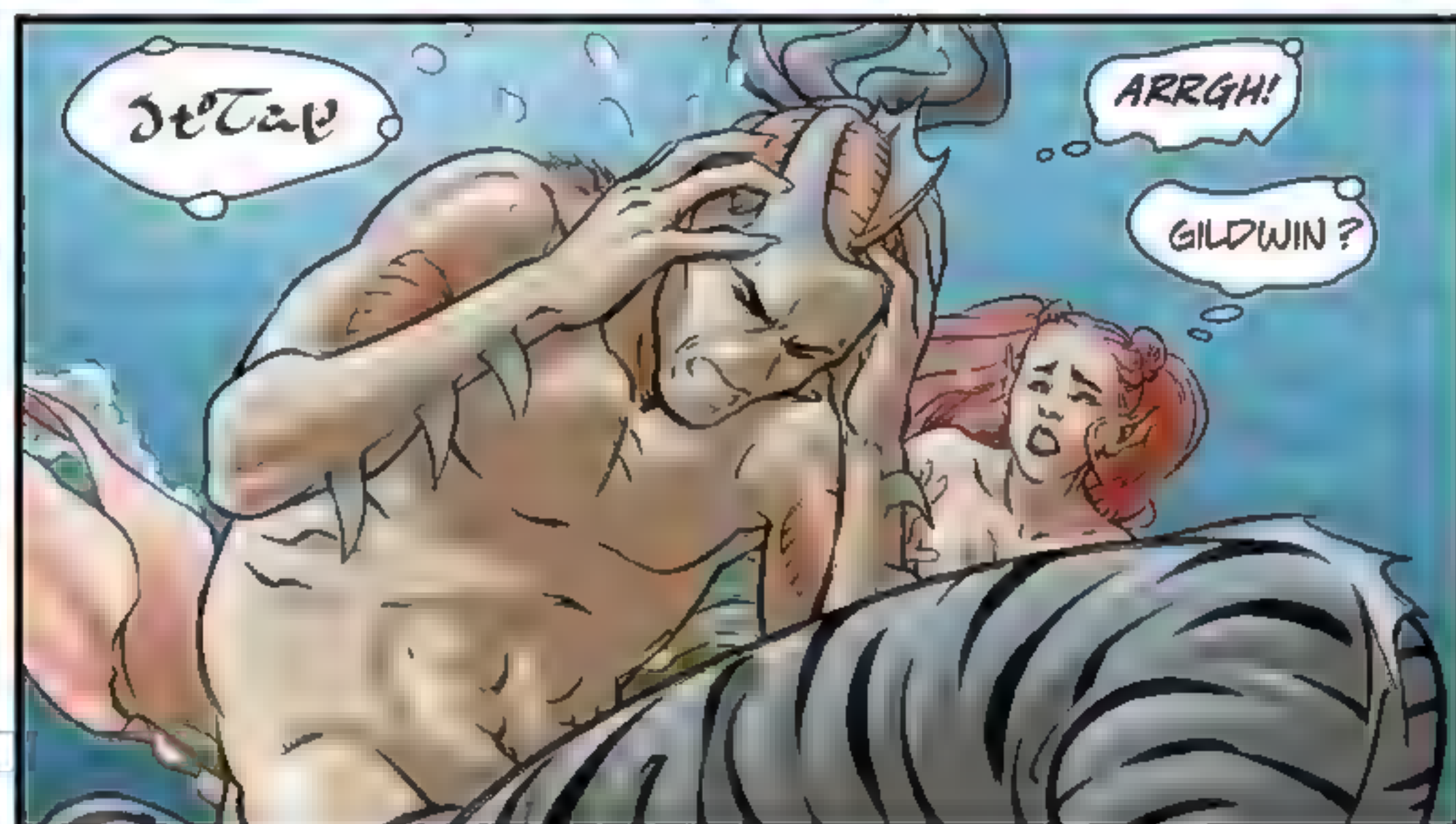
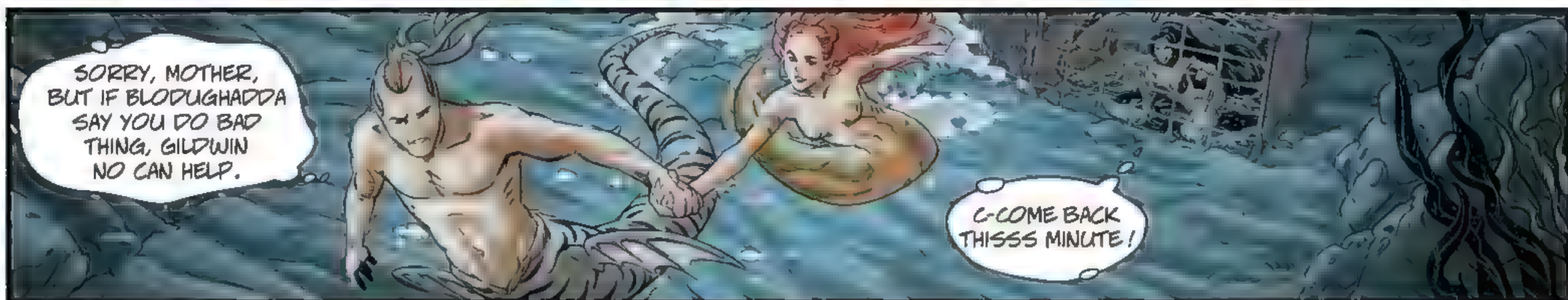
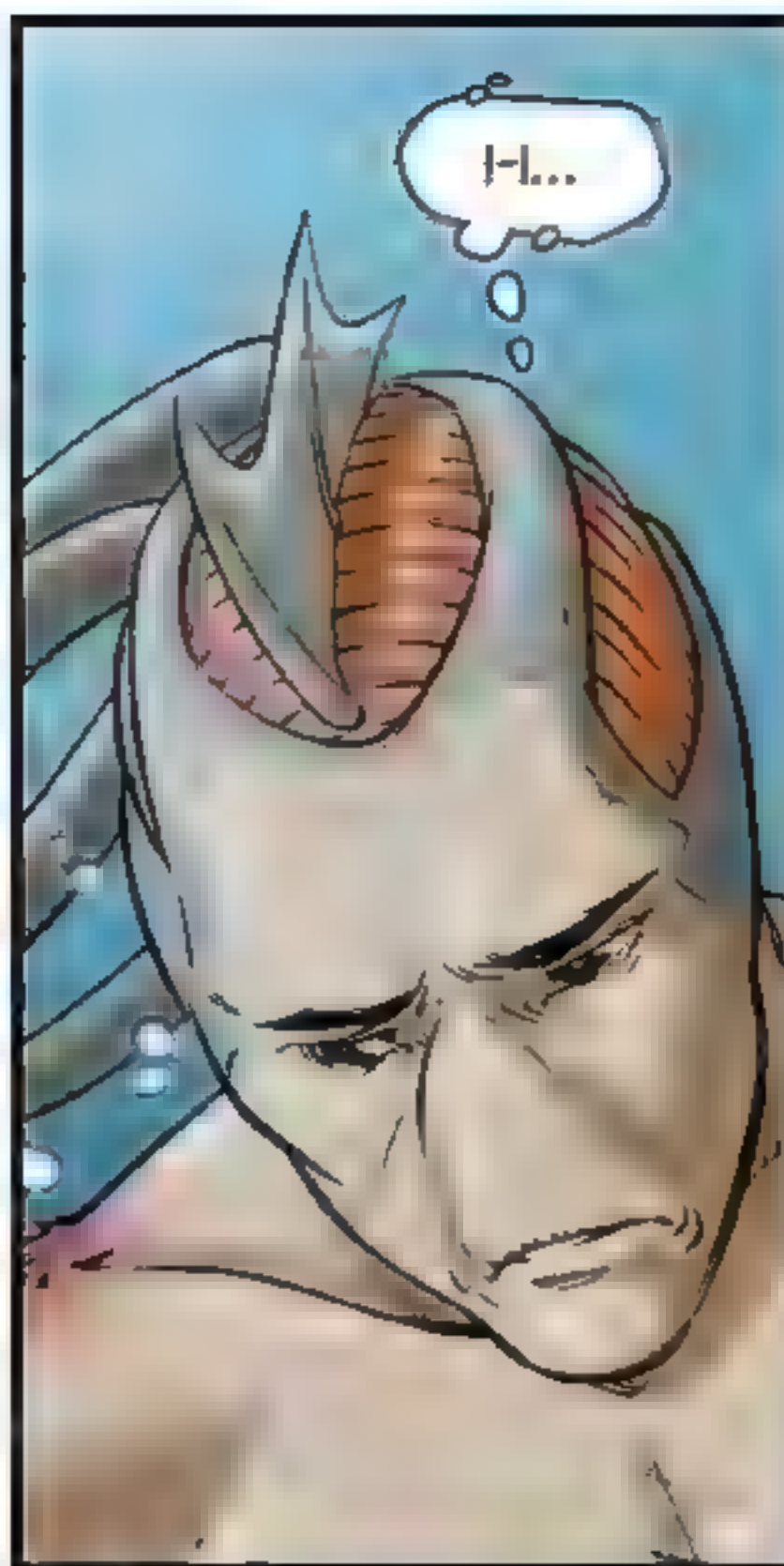
BUT... WHY?

SHE'S AN EVIL DJINN. A SERPENT WOMAN FROM THE SOUTH SEAS. THEY ARE THE SWORN ENEMY OF MY SPECIES. IF YOU FREE HER, SHE COULD KILL US ALL!

SHE FEELS NO LOVE FOR YOU. SHE SPAWNED YOU PURELY AS HER LAST CHANCE OF ESCAPING THIS CAGE.

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A TOY TO HER. DJINNS ARE MASTERS OF MANIPULATION.

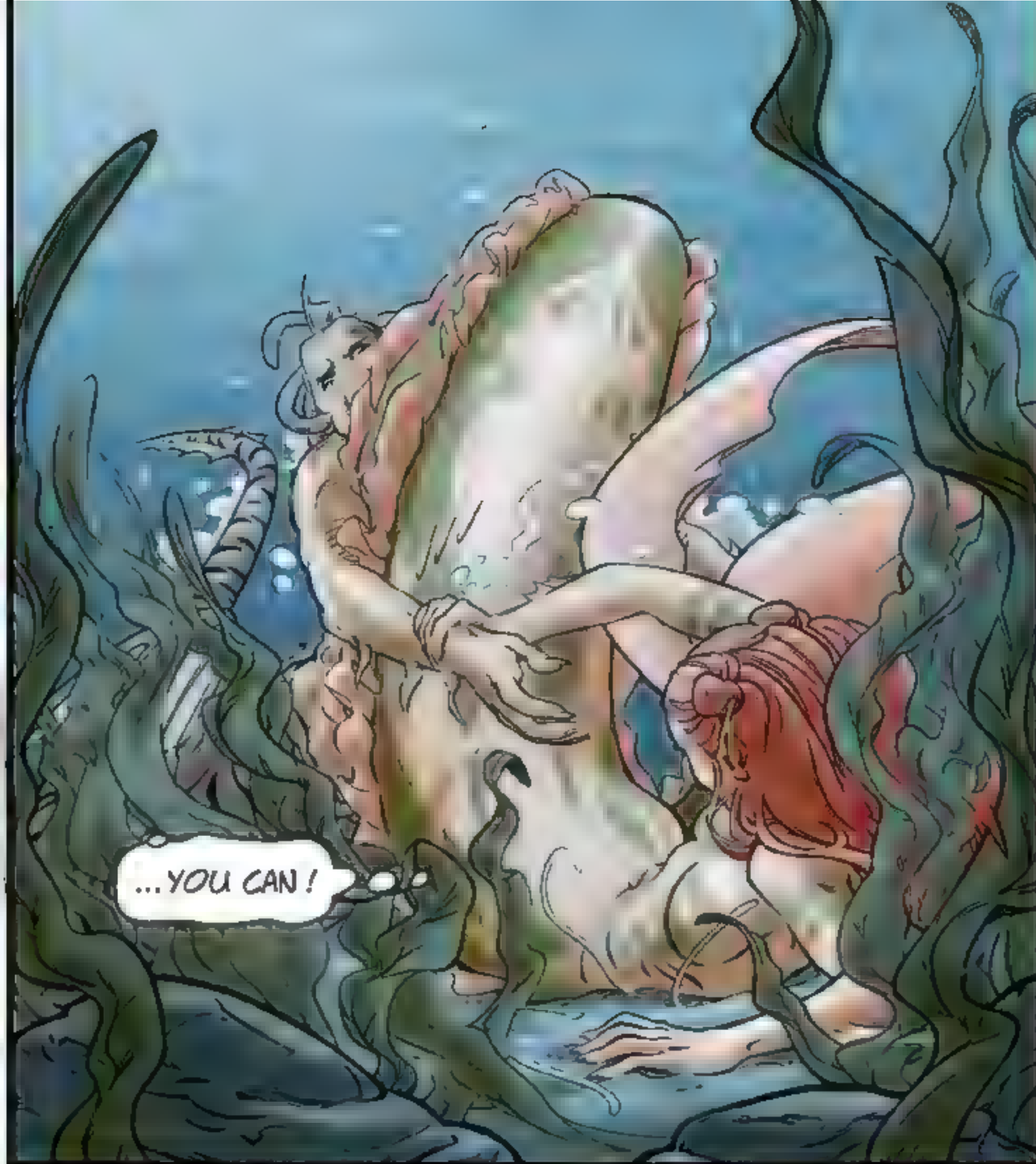
SSSSSSSSSSSSSS!





AGH... GILDWIN, I...
PLEASE... DON'T LET HER
TAKE OVER YOUR MIND!

YOU... YOU CAN DO
IT! I'M CERTAIN...

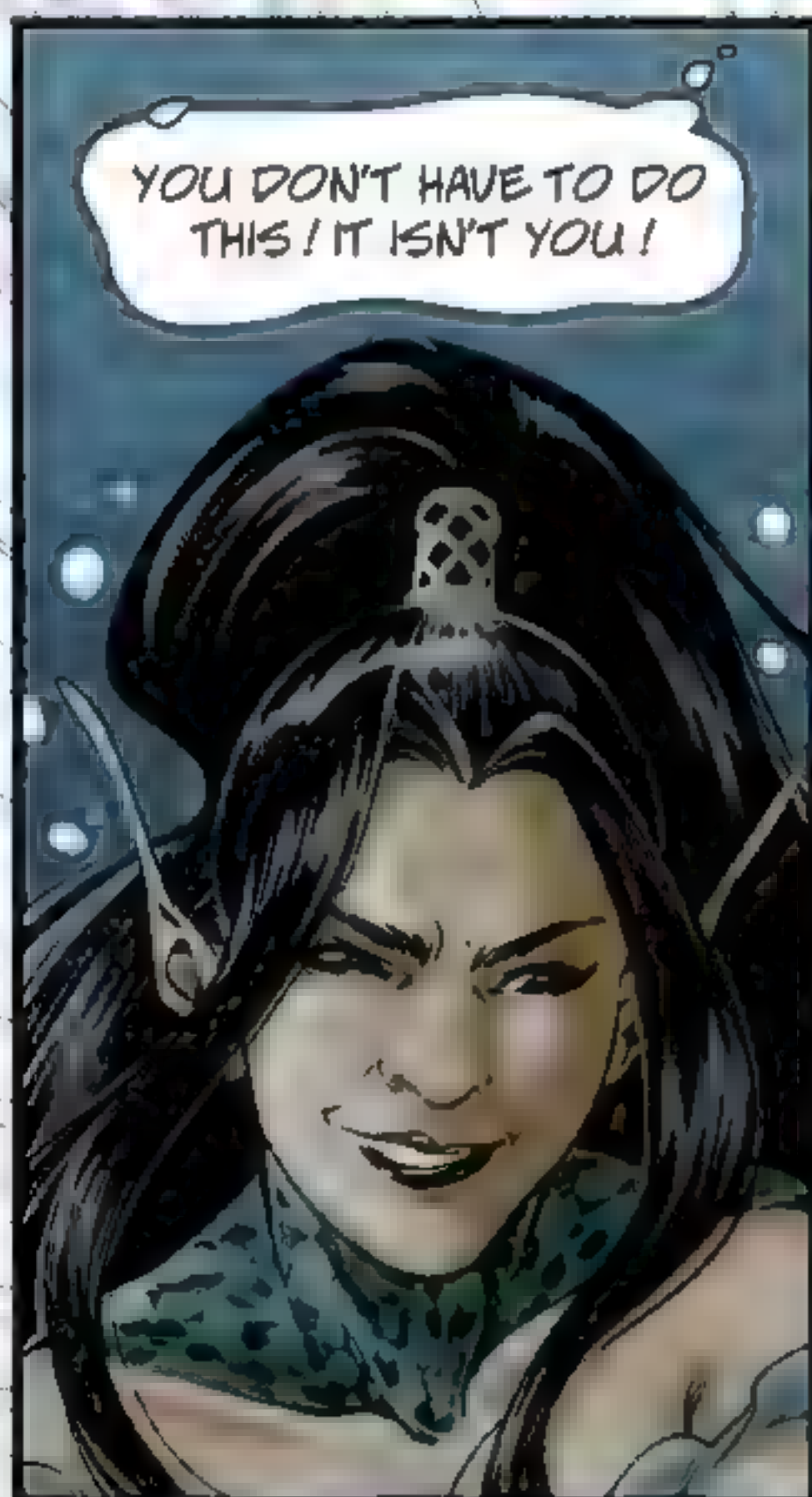


...YOU CAN!

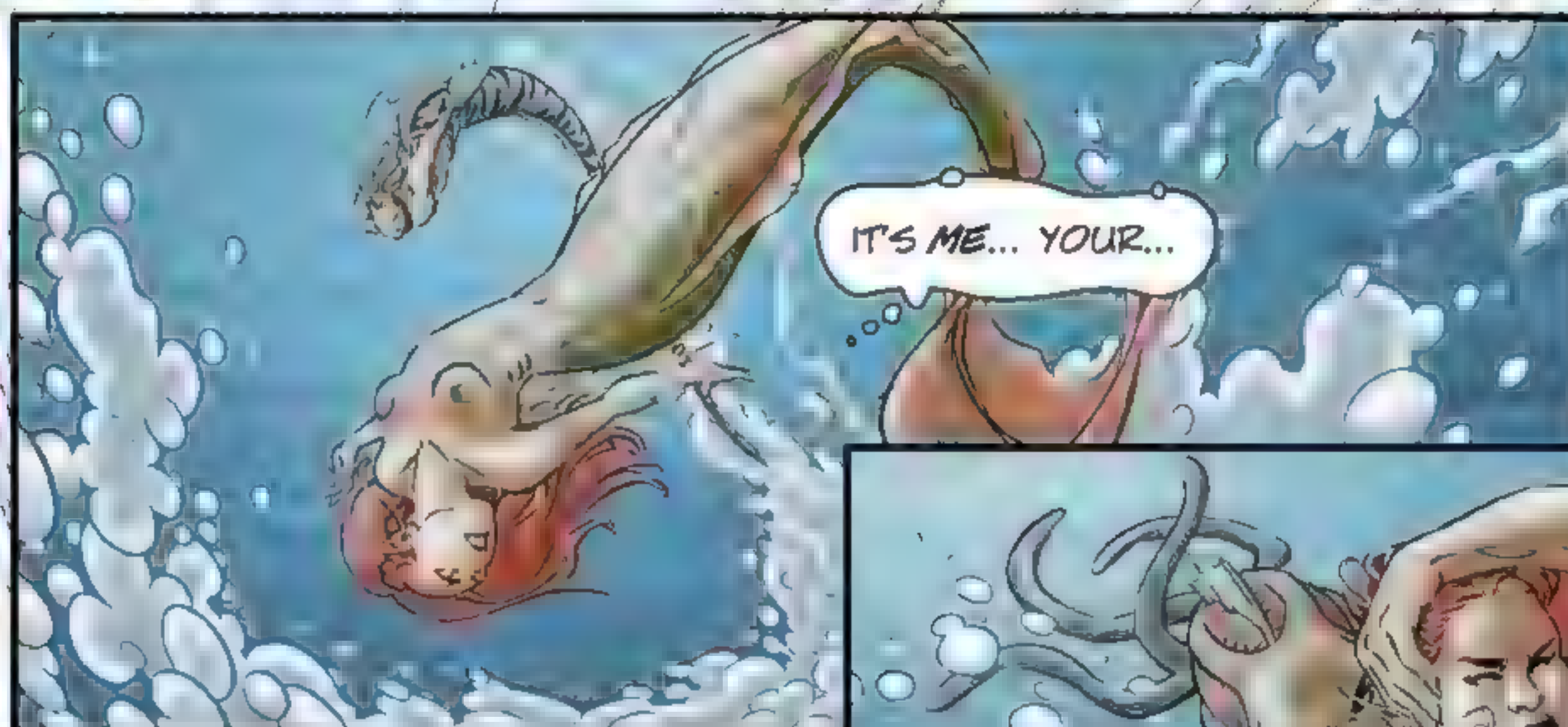


SSSHHHHAA!

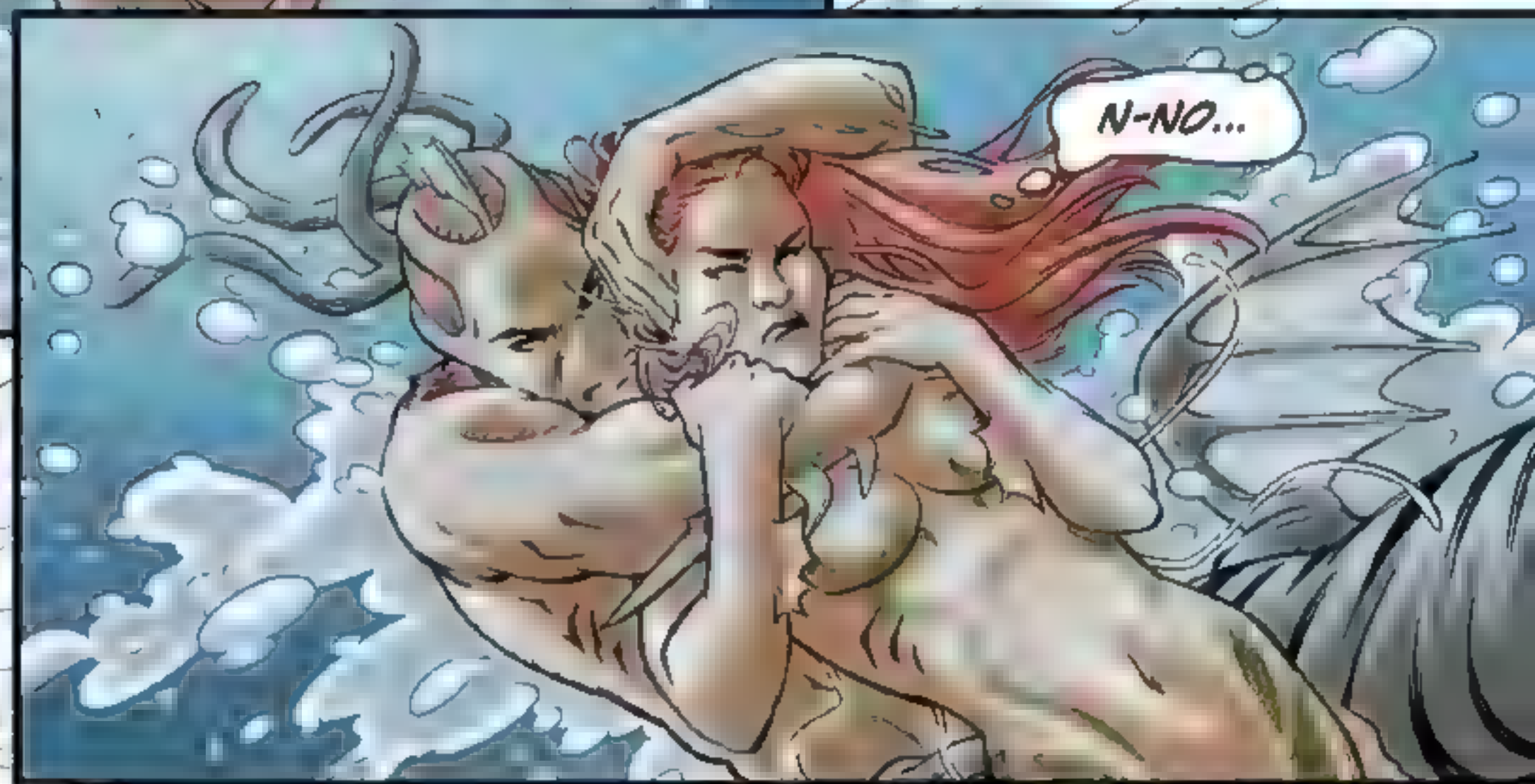
STOP IT!



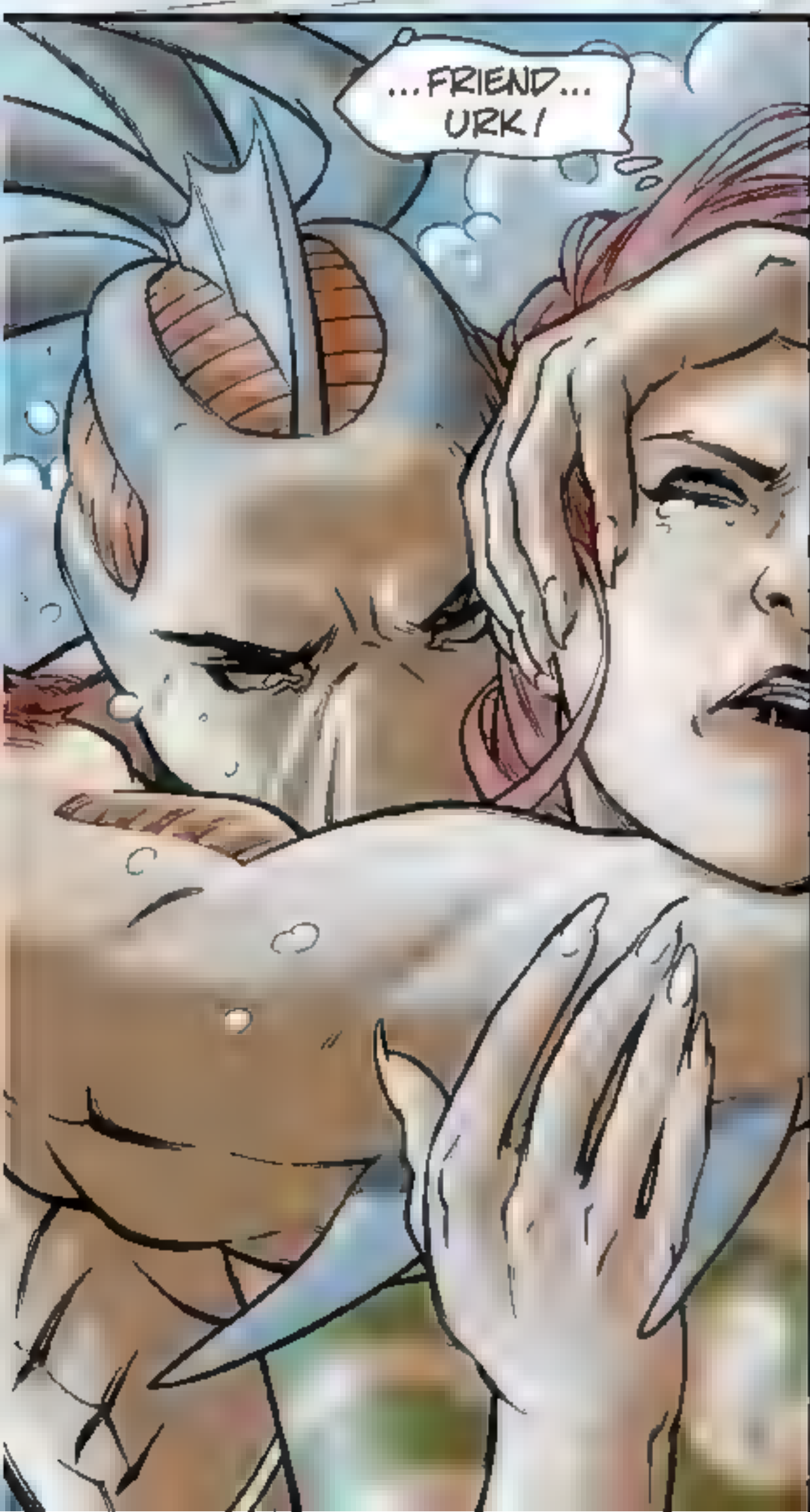
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO
THIS! IT ISN'T YOU!



IT'S ME... YOUR...



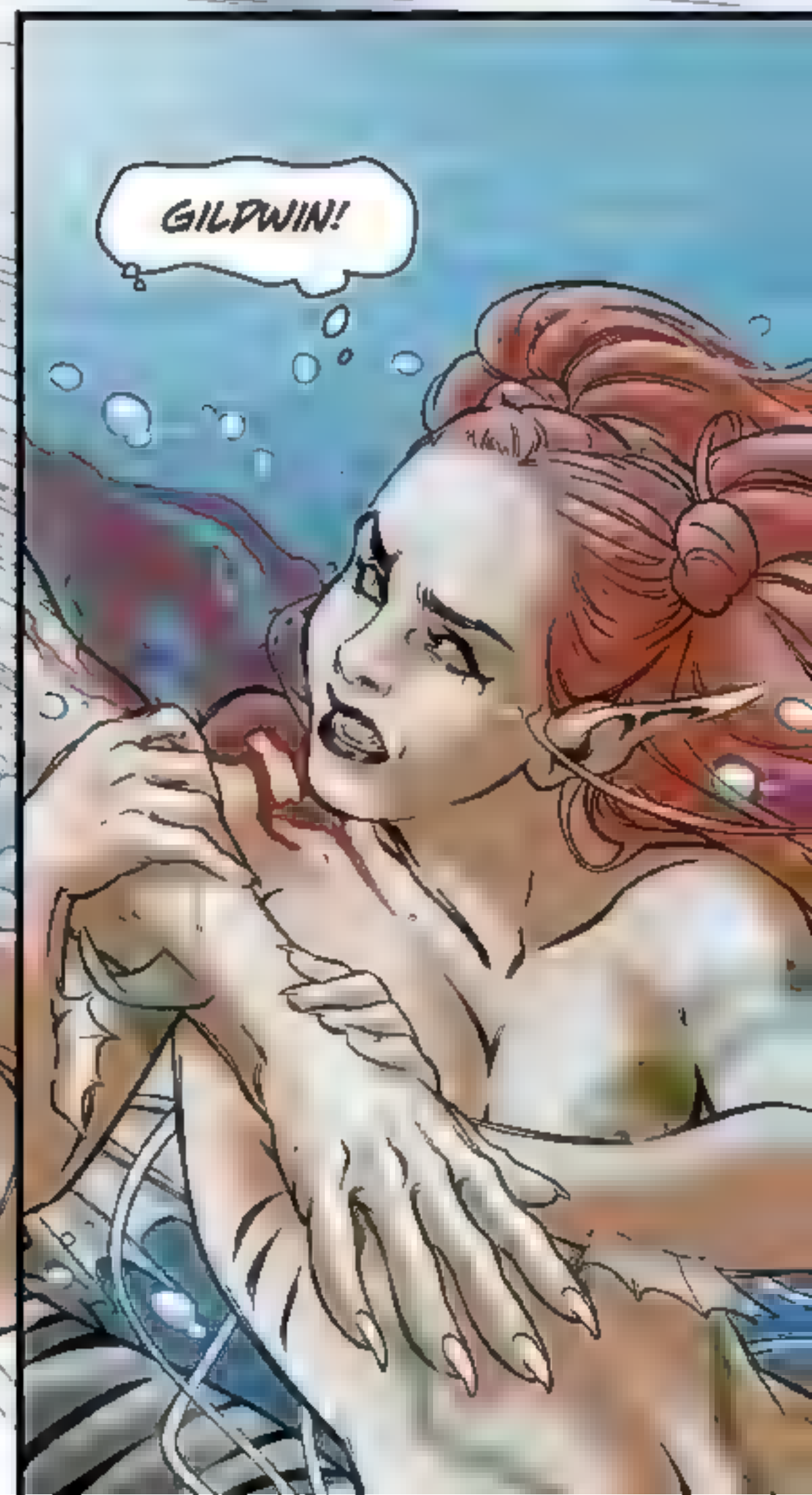
N-NO...



...FRIEND...
URK!



ARGH!



GILDWIN!



GILDWIN, WAKE UP!
I'M BEGGING YOU...

WELL DONE, ELDIR.
NO ONE ATTACKS THE
KING'S DAUGHTER!

HE... HE WASN'T
RESPONSIBLE FOR
HIS ACTIONS!

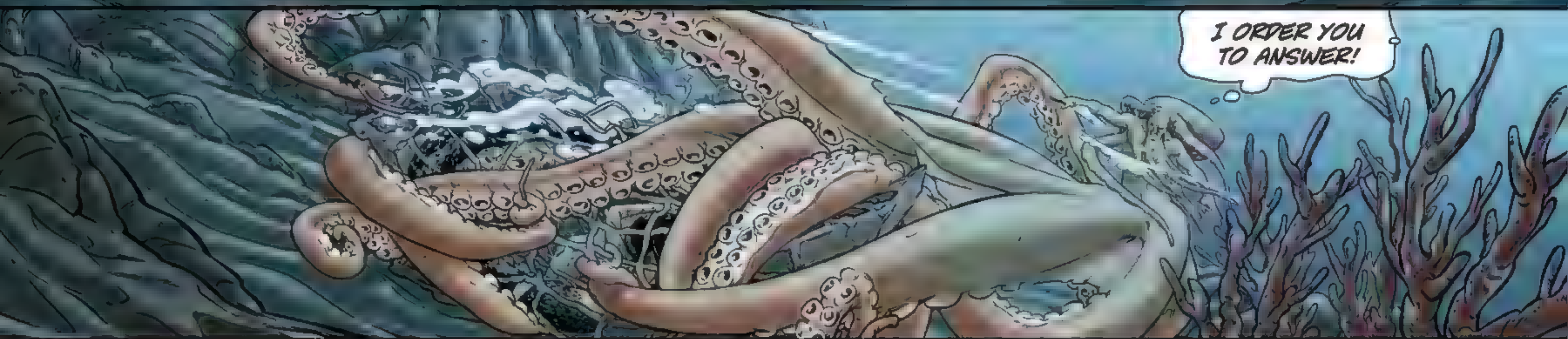


THAT DJINN USED HER EVIL
TO GET INSIDE HIS MIND!

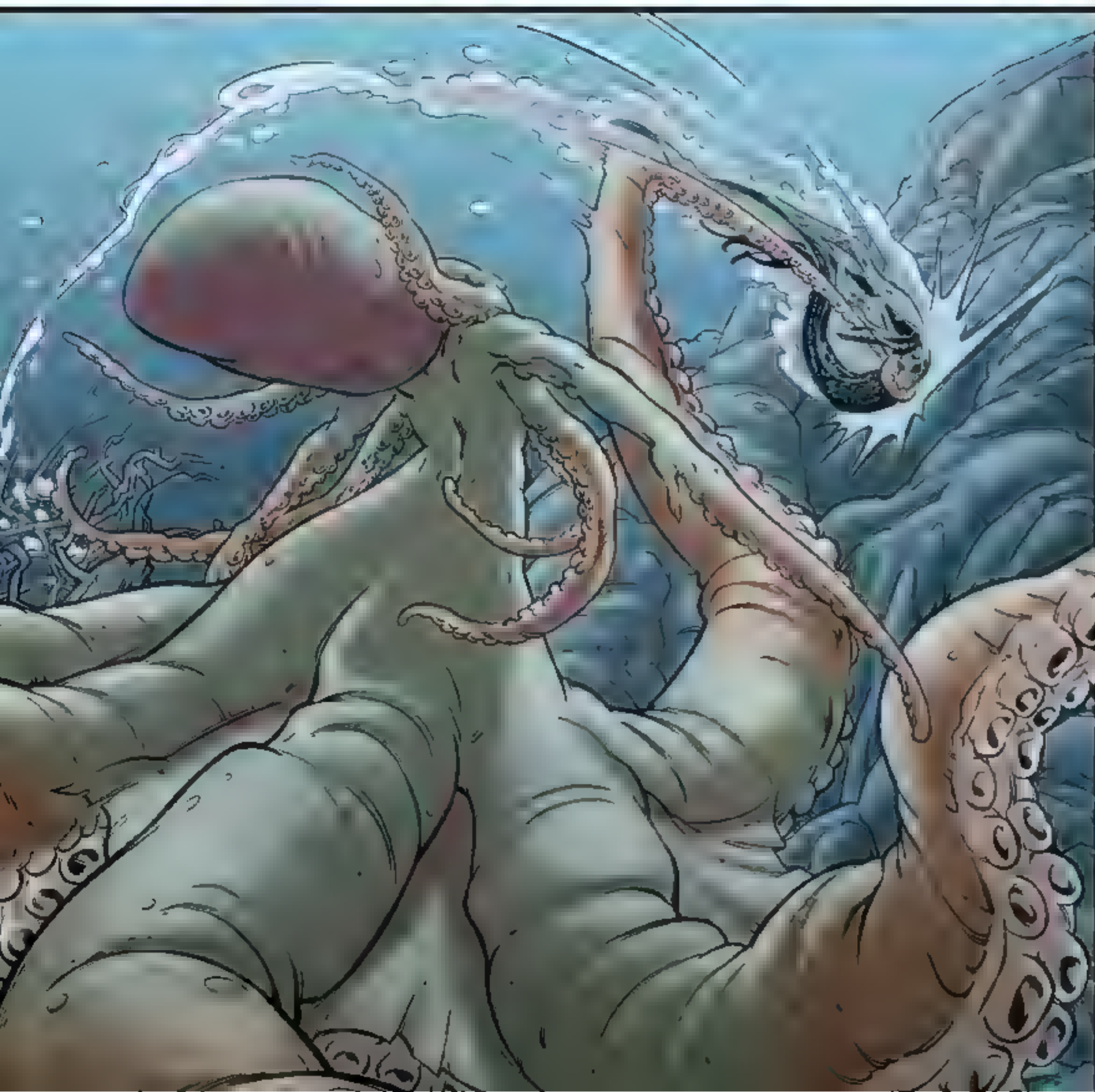
A DJINN?



WHY ARE YOU
IN MY KINGDOM,
PERFIDIOUS
SNAKE?



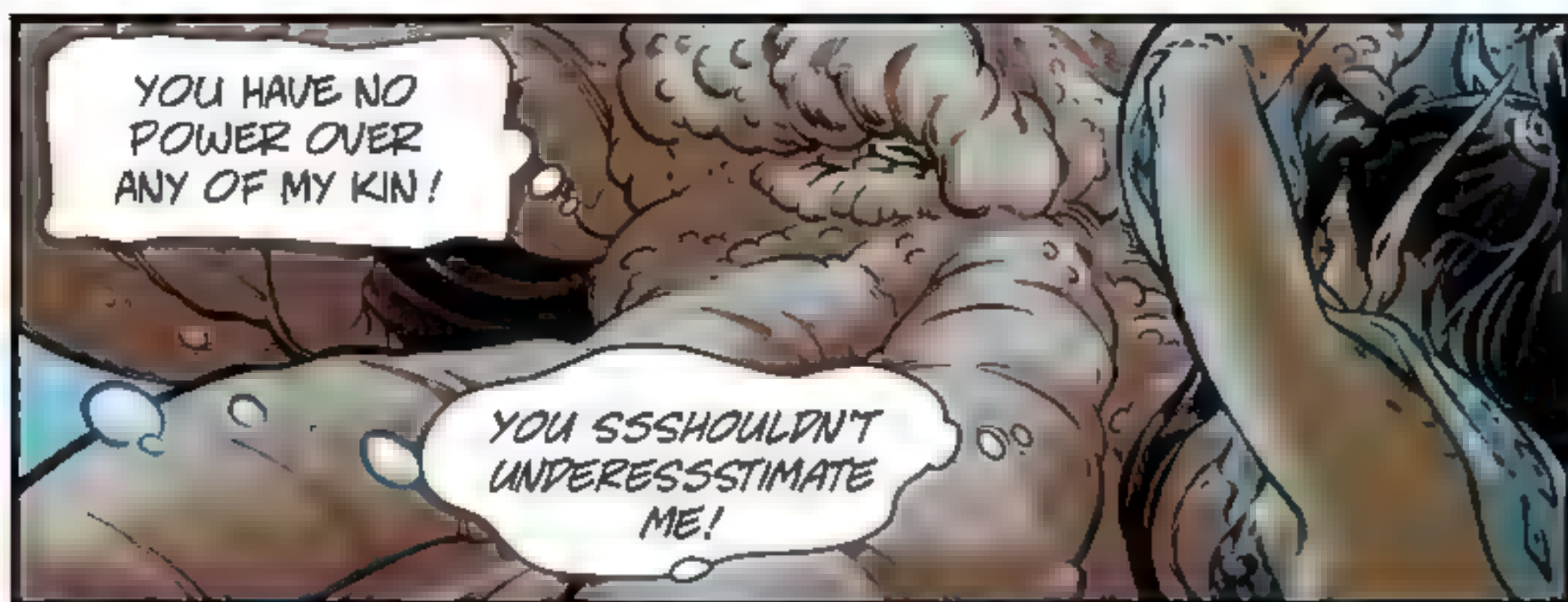
I ORDER YOU
TO ANSWER!



snaw

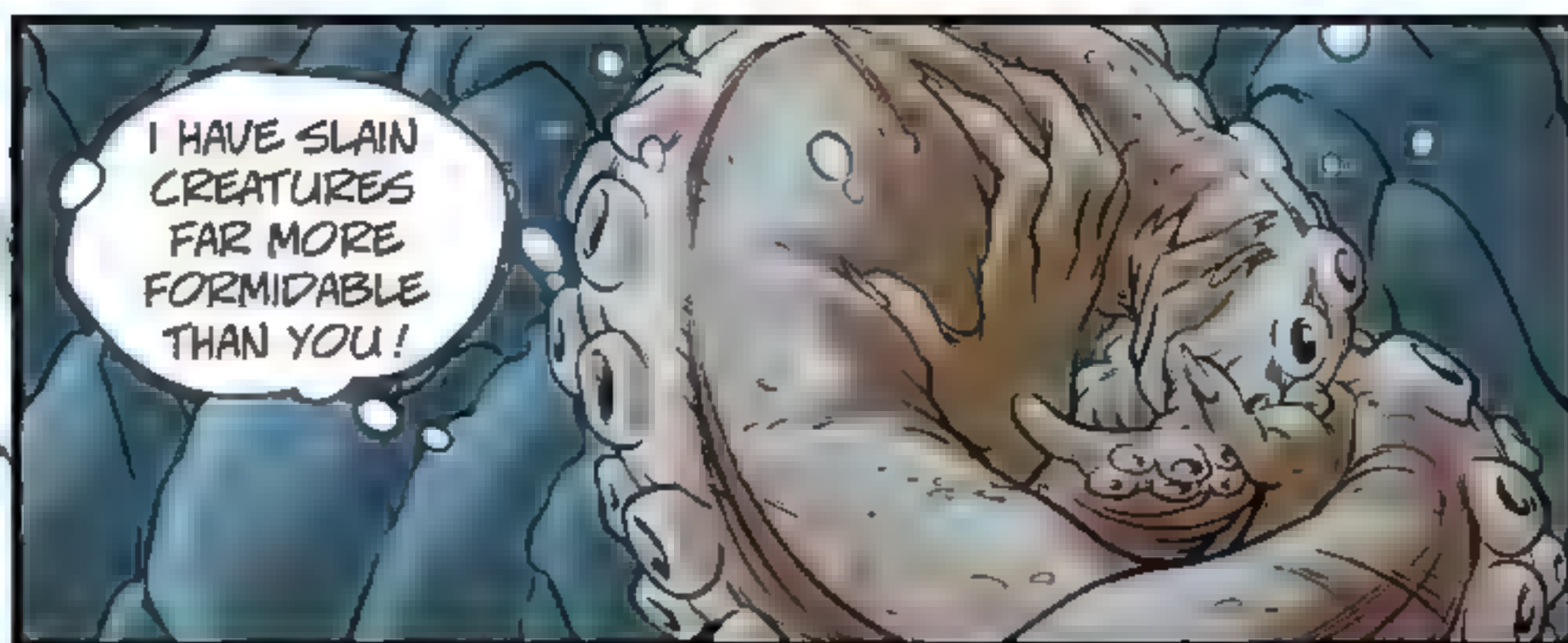


TRYING TO WORM
YOUR WAY INTO
MY HEAD, DJINN?



YOU HAVE NO
POWER OVER
ANY OF MY KIN!

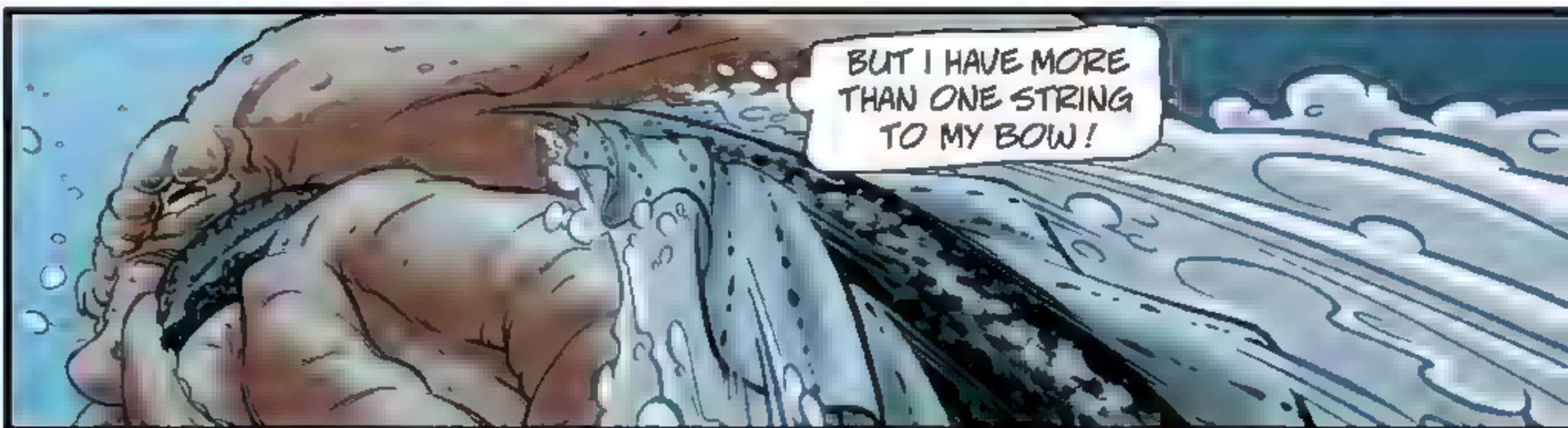
YOU SSSHOULDN'T
UNDERESSSTIMATE
ME!



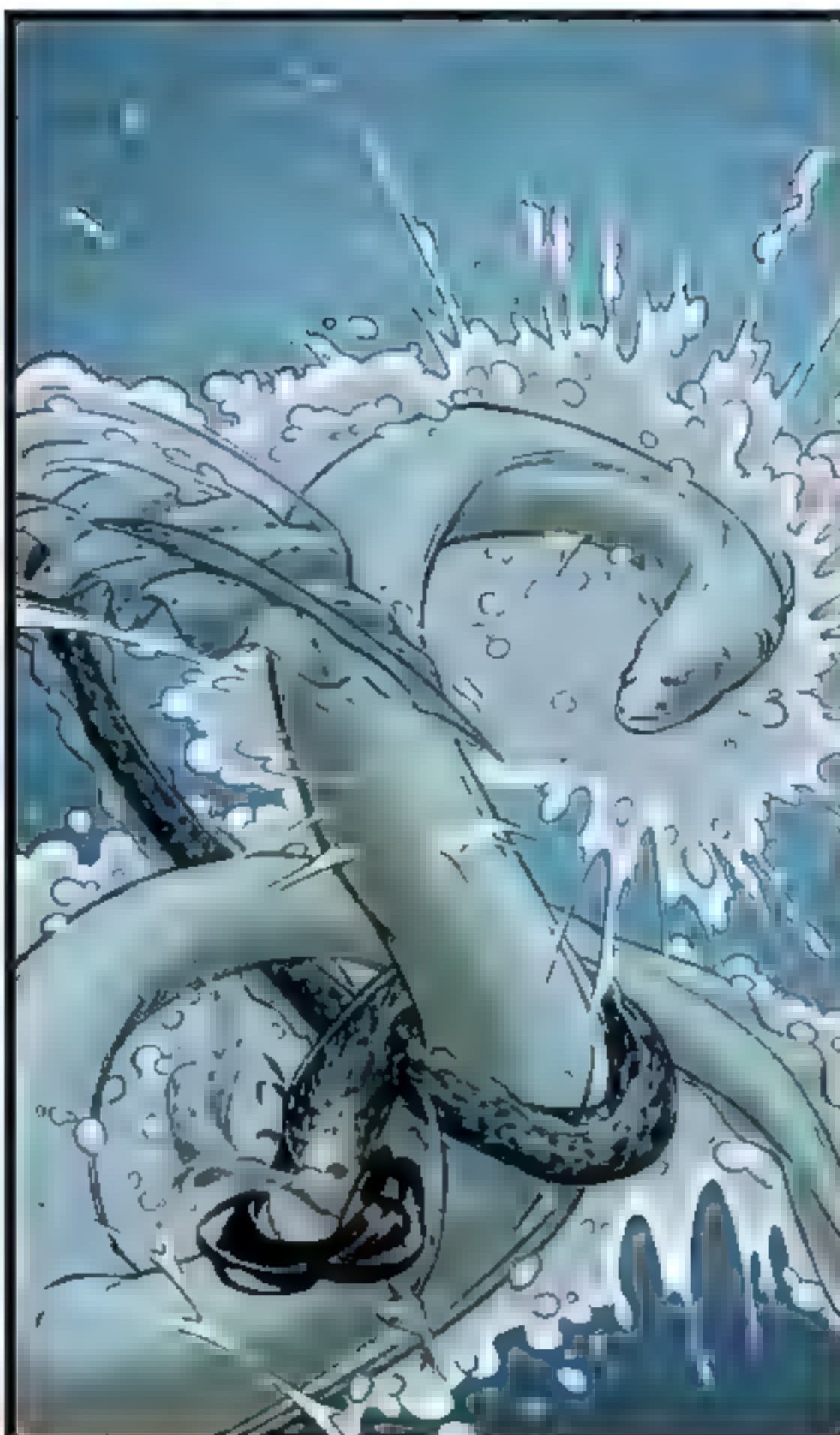
I HAVE SLAIN
CREATURES
FAR MORE
FORMIDABLE
THAN YOU!



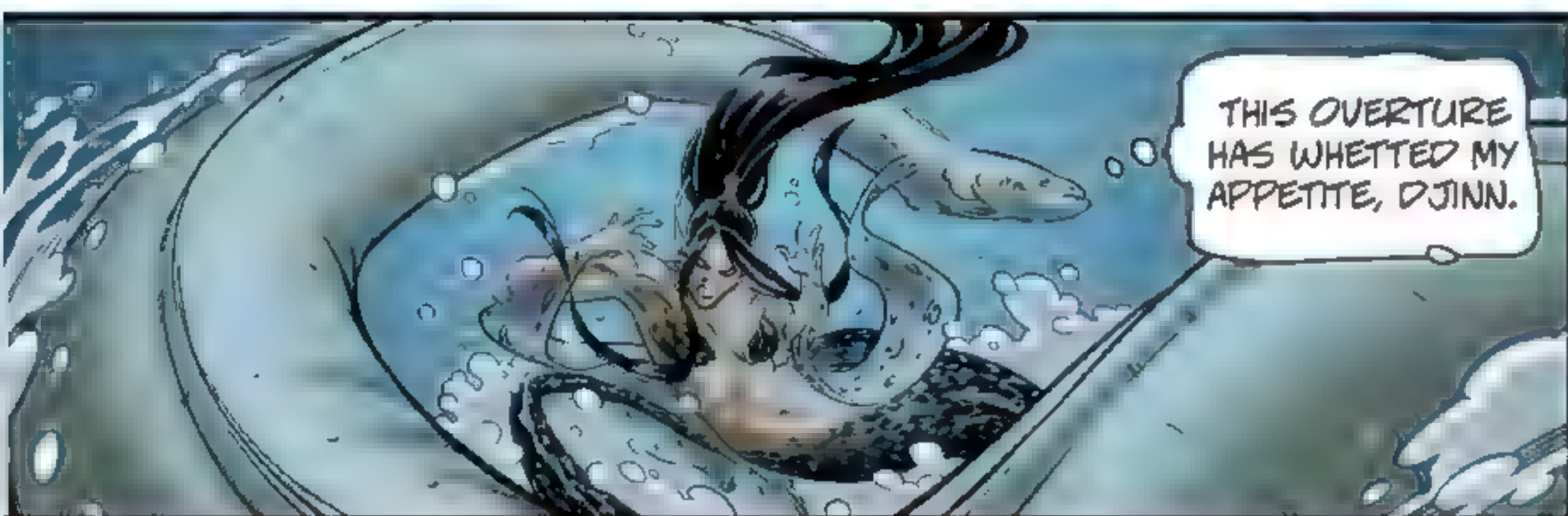
YOUR SPECIES
IS VERY CUNNING,
I MUST ADMIT.



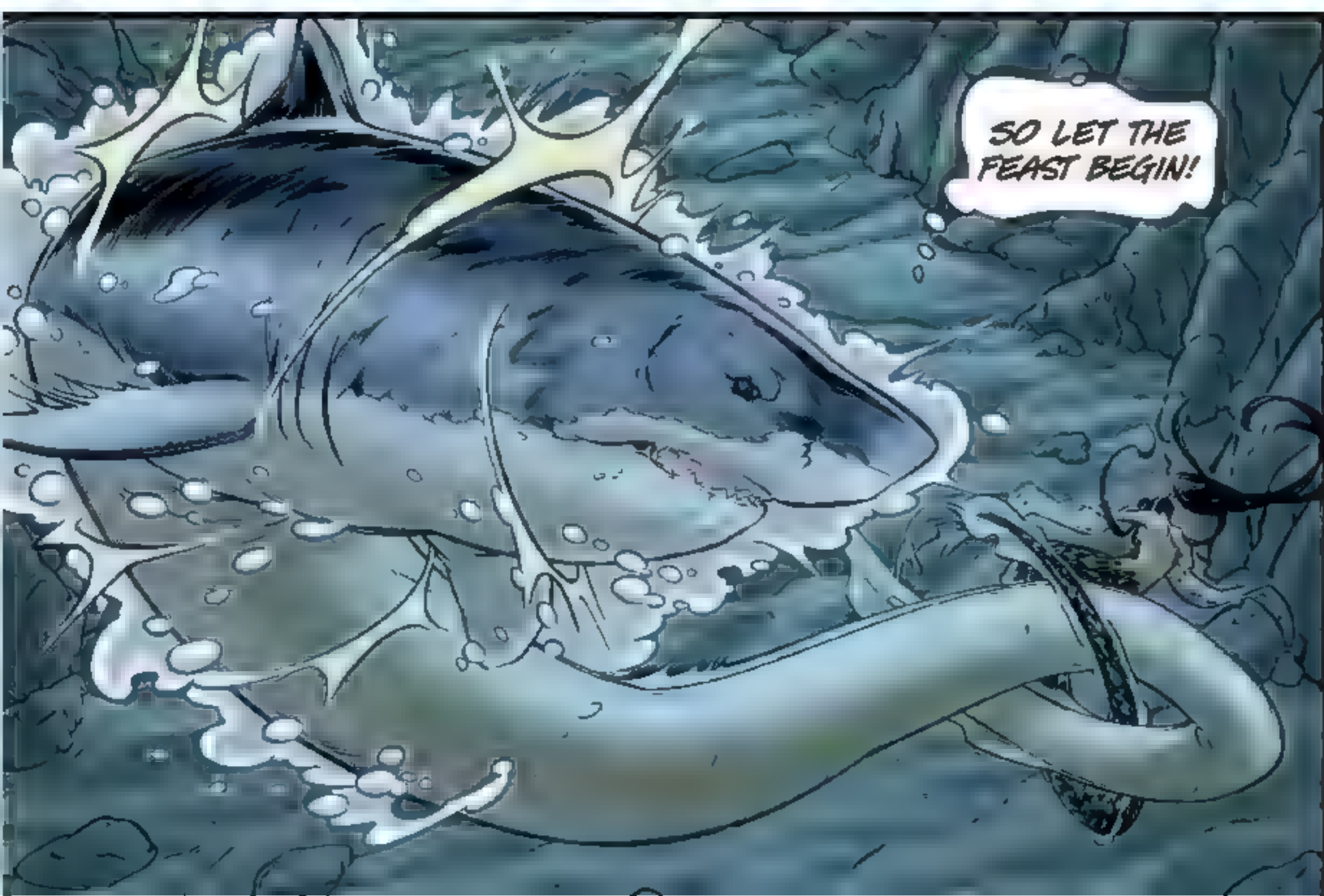
BUT I HAVE MORE
THAN ONE STRING
TO MY BOW!



OWW!



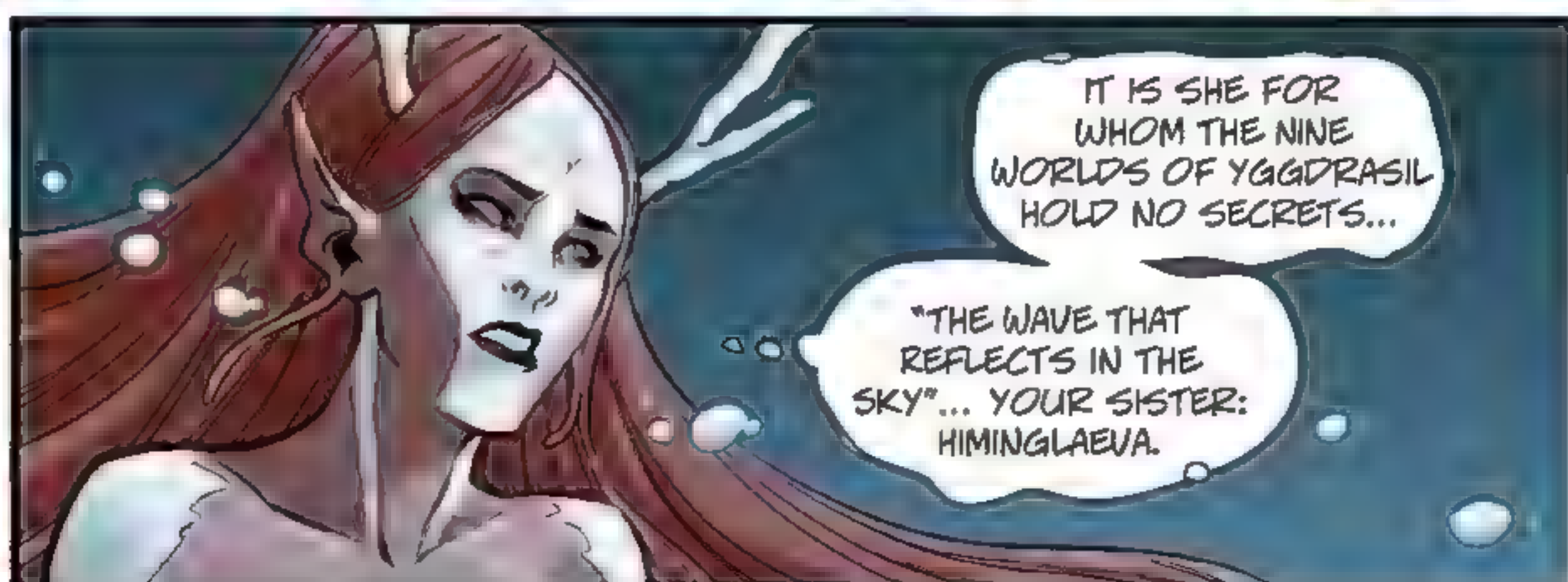
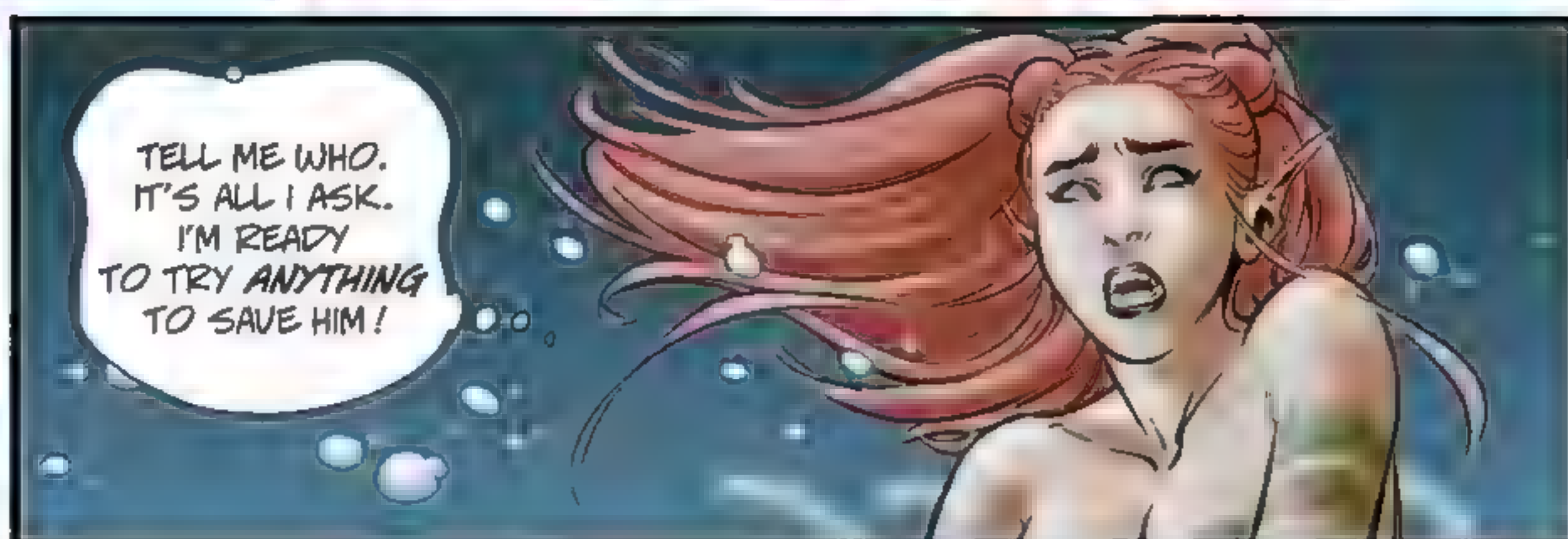
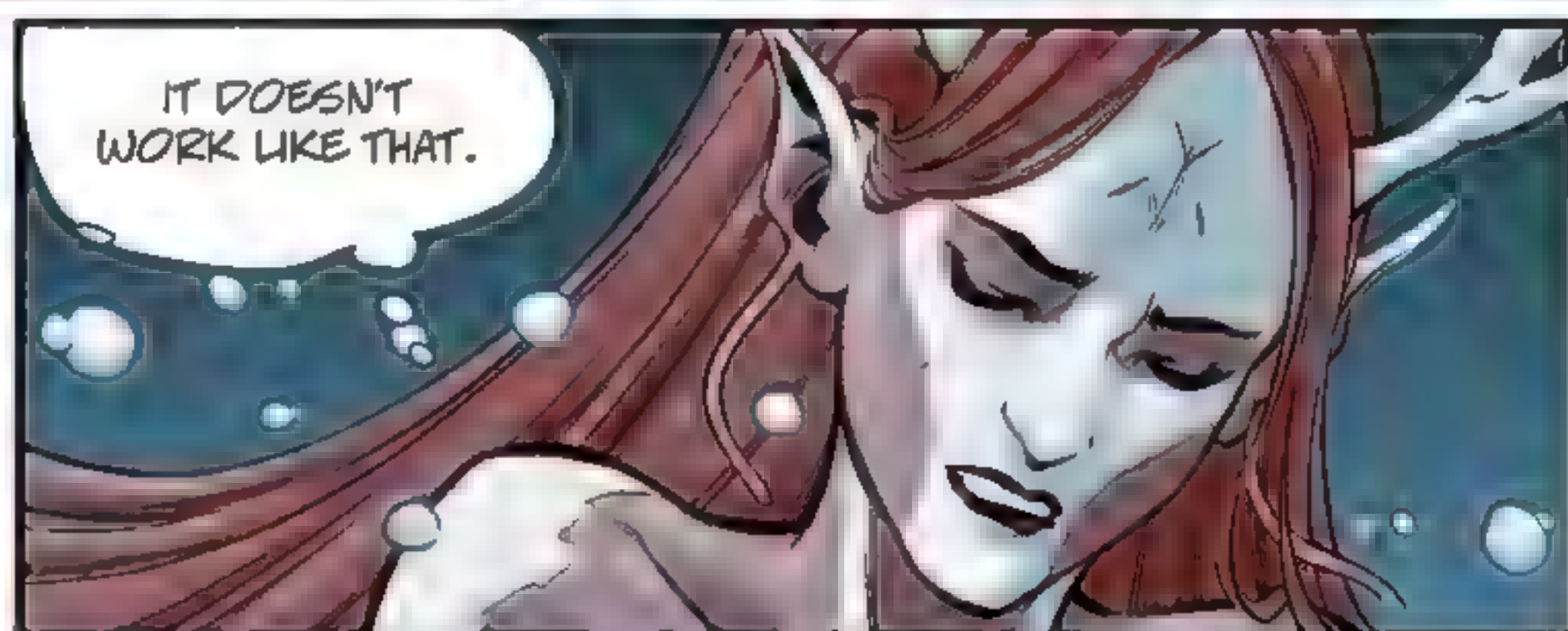
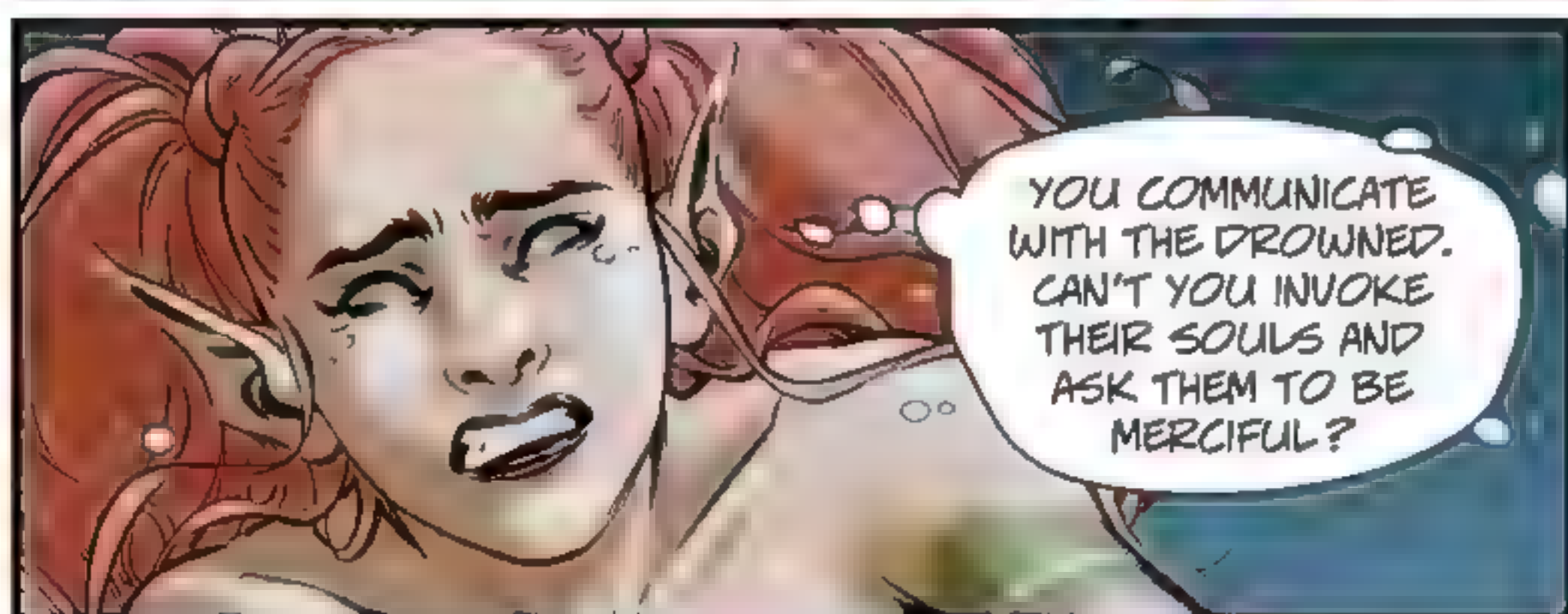
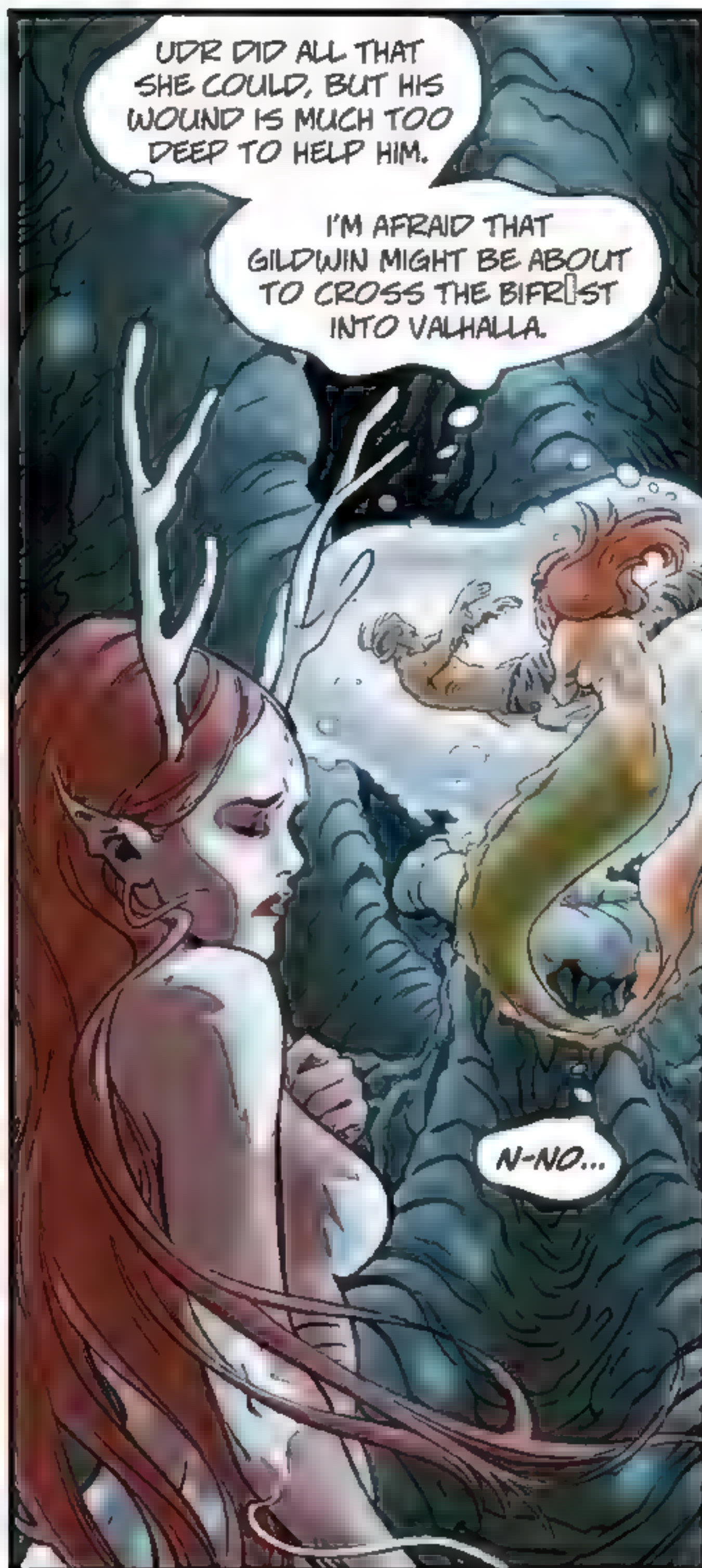
THIS OVERTURE
HAS WHETTED MY
APPETITE, DJINN.



SO LET THE
FEAST BEGIN!



AAAARGH!

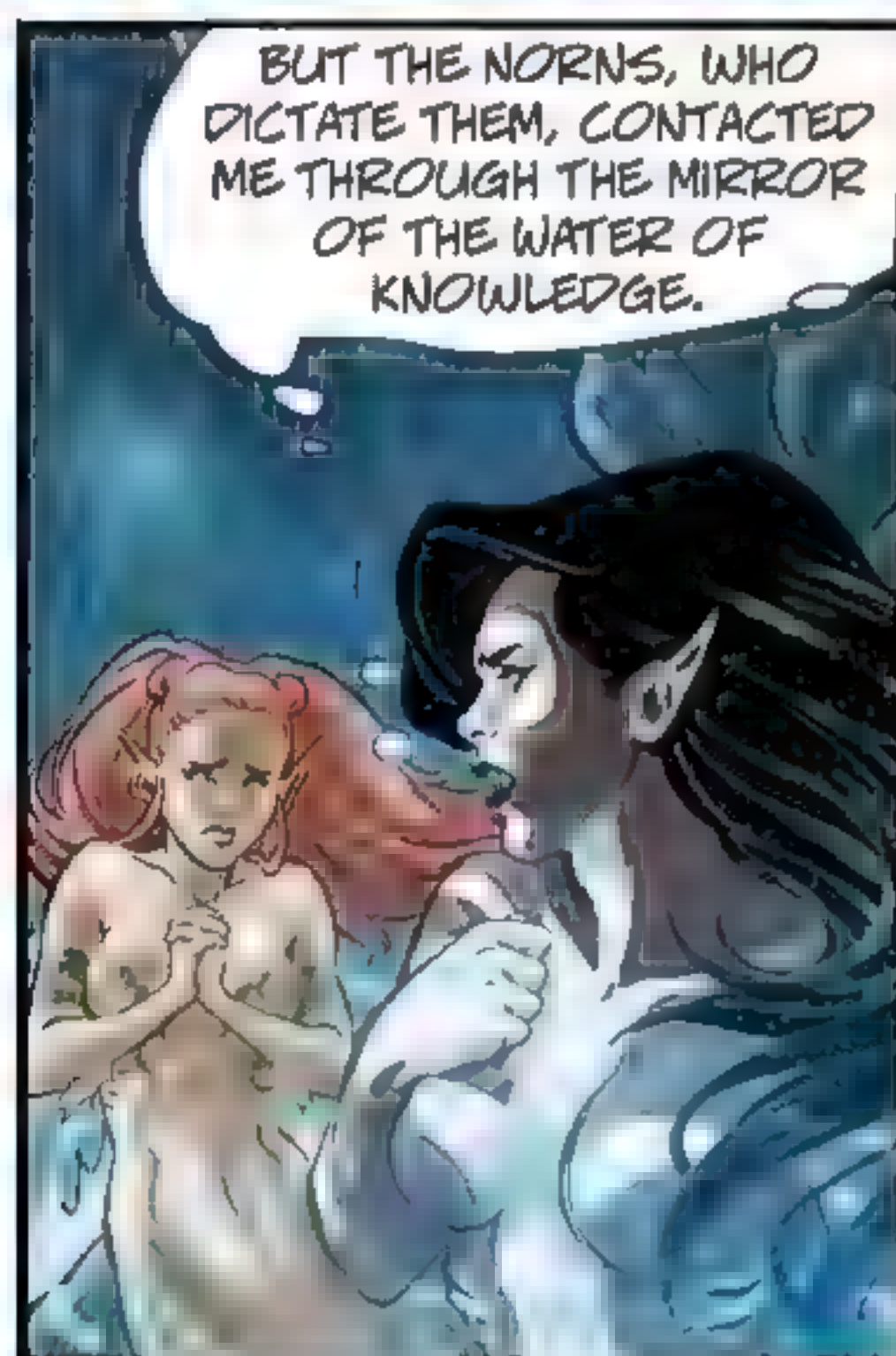




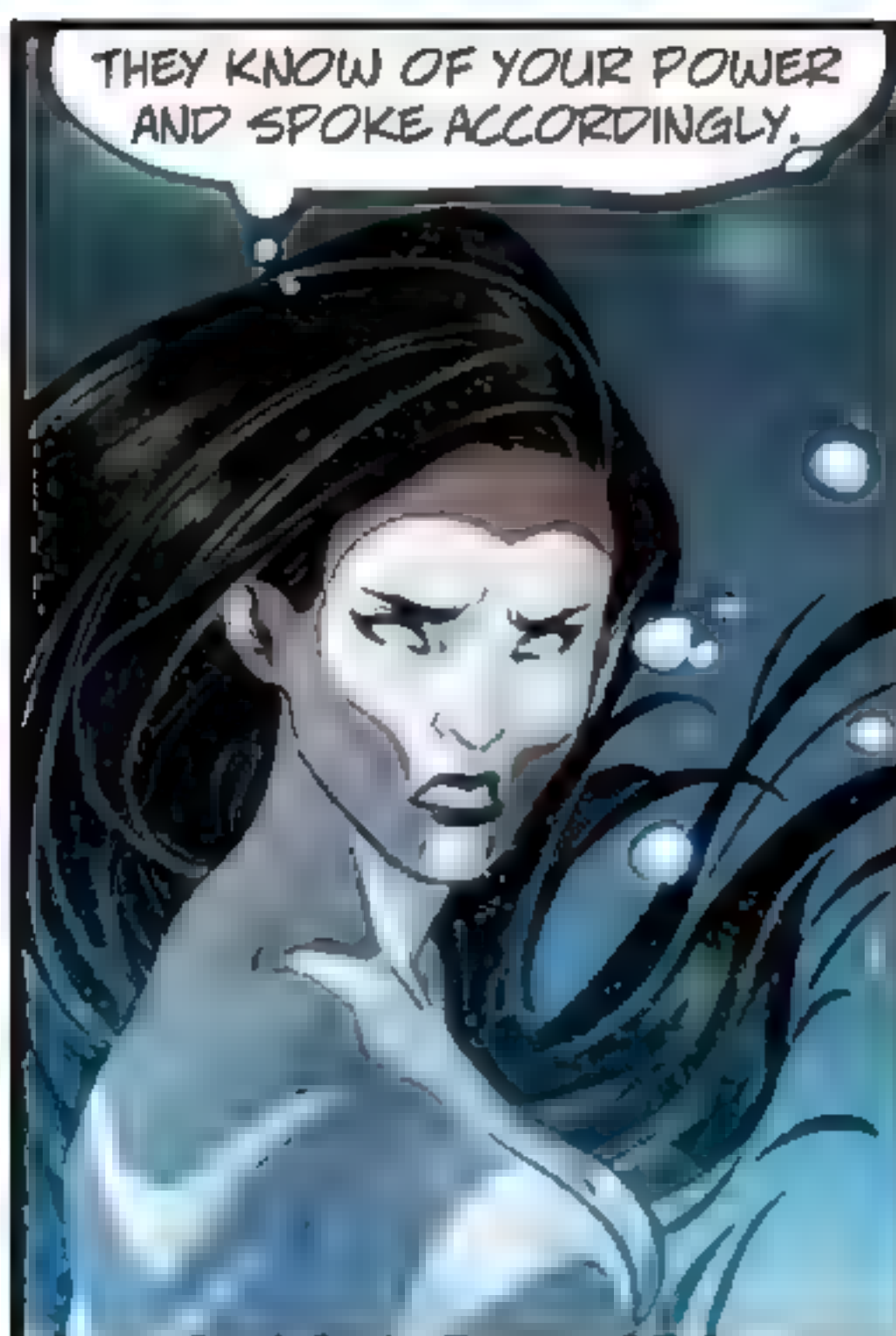
WHAT DO YOU SEE, SISTER? TELL ME STRAIGHT.



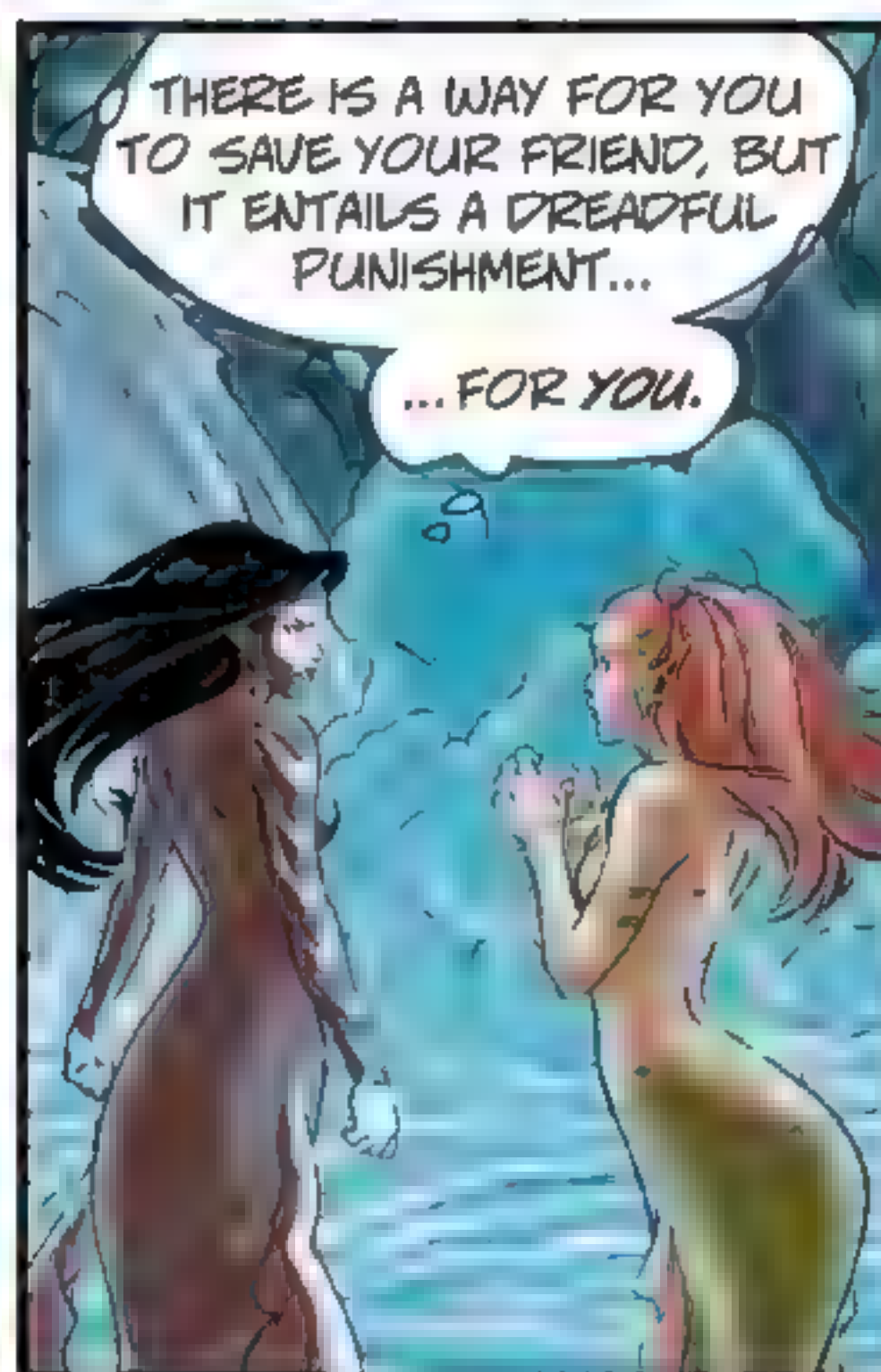
RESTORING LIFE IS NO SIMPLE MATTER, BLODUGHADDA. THE LINES OF DESTINY ARE INFLEXIBLE.



BUT THE NORNS, WHO DICTATE THEM, CONTACTED ME THROUGH THE MIRROR OF THE WATER OF KNOWLEDGE.

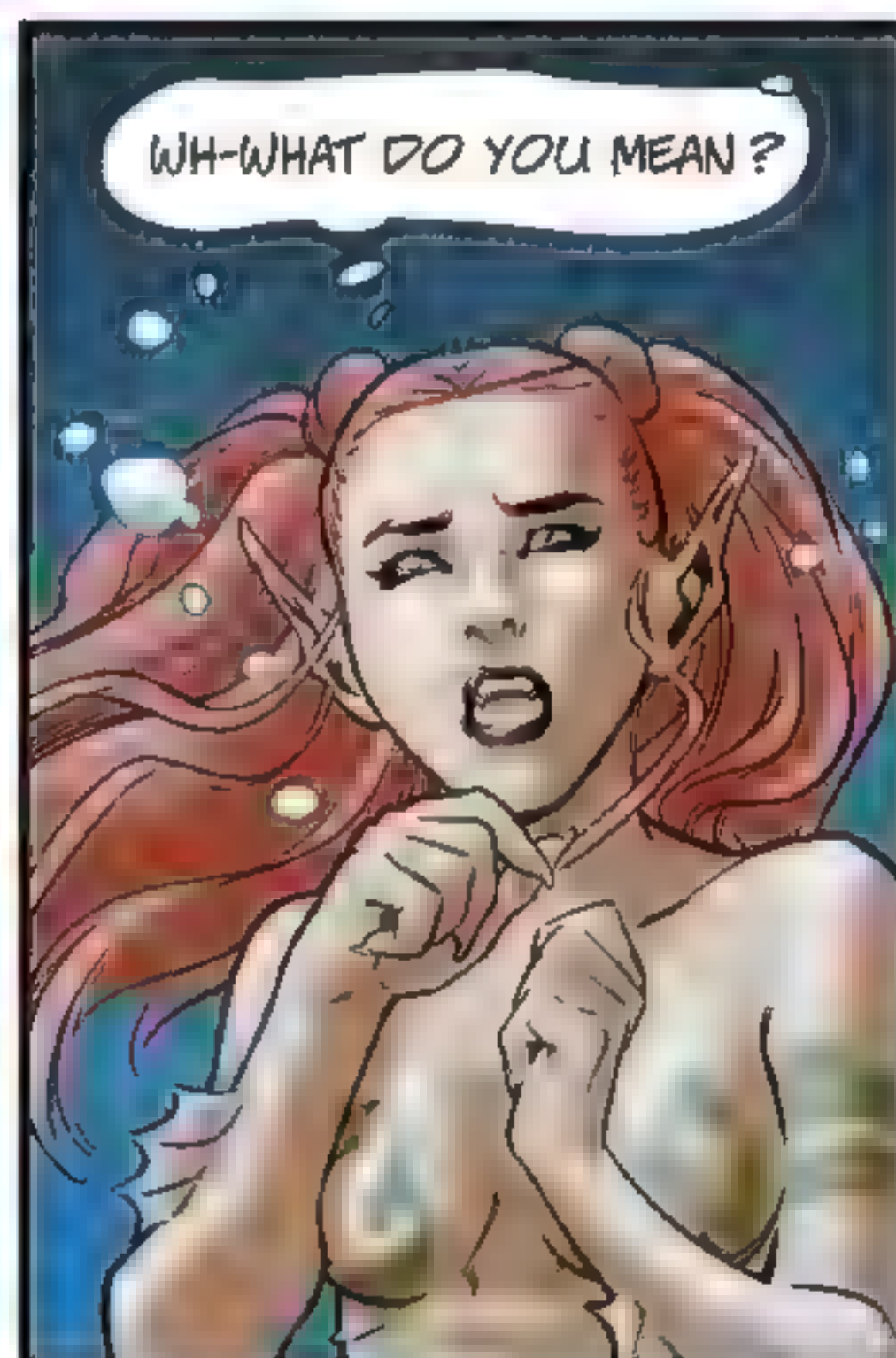


THEY KNOW OF YOUR POWER AND SPOKE ACCORDINGLY.



THERE IS A WAY FOR YOU TO SAVE YOUR FRIEND, BUT IT ENTAILS A DREADFUL PUNISHMENT...

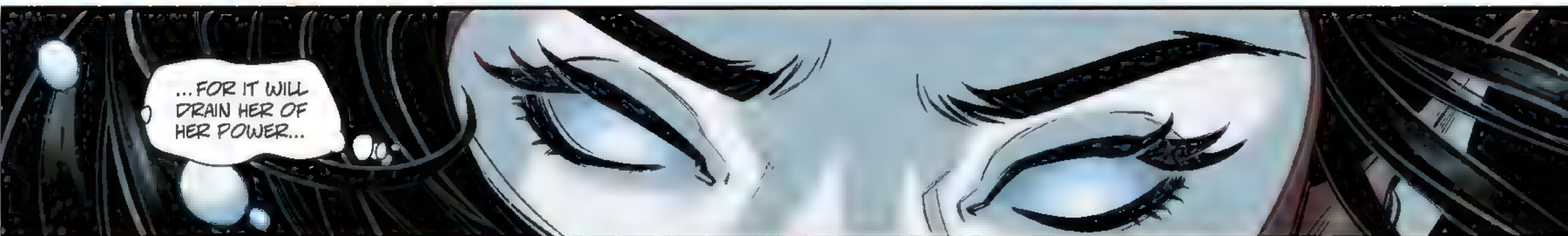
...FOR YOU.



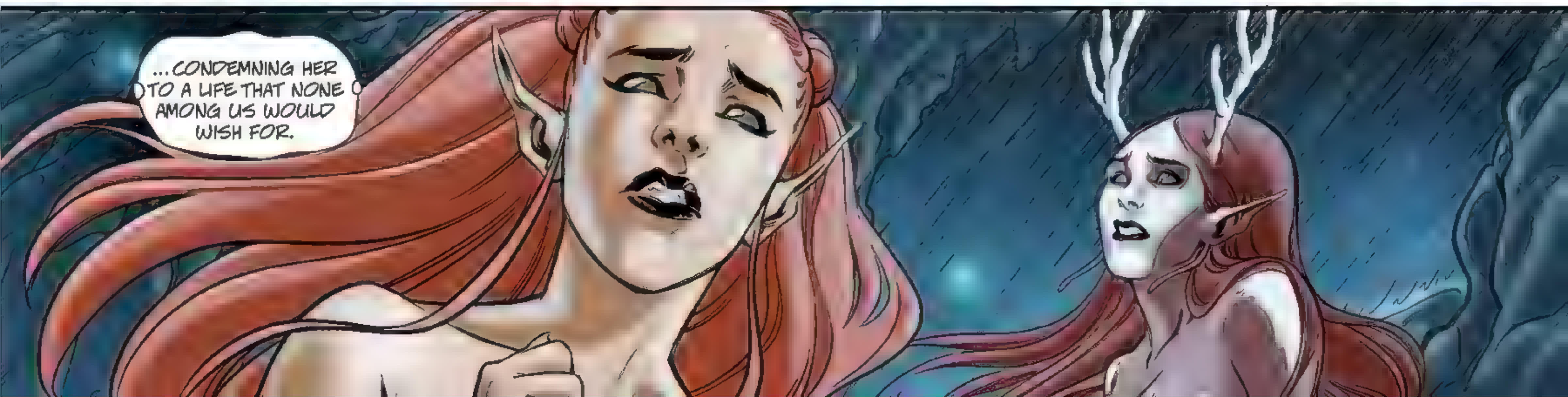
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



THE RESURRECTION RHYME... AN INCANTATION THAT NO SIREN ENDOWED WITH MAGIC SHOULD EVER INTONE...



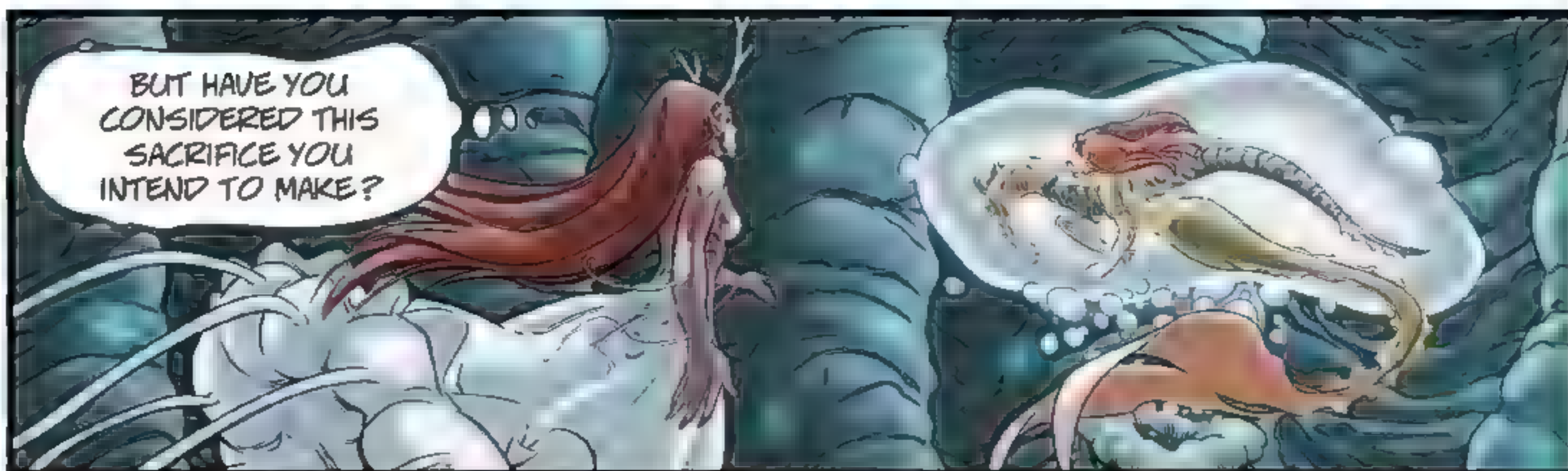
...FOR IT WILL DRAIN HER OF HER POWER...



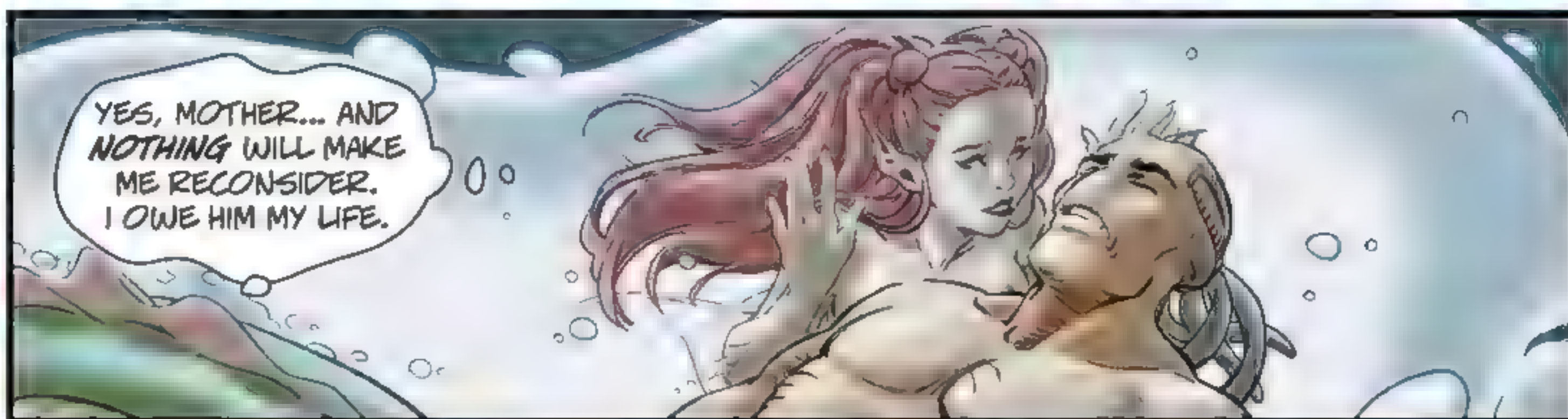
...CONDEMNING HER TO A LIFE THAT NONE AMONG US WOULD WISH FOR.



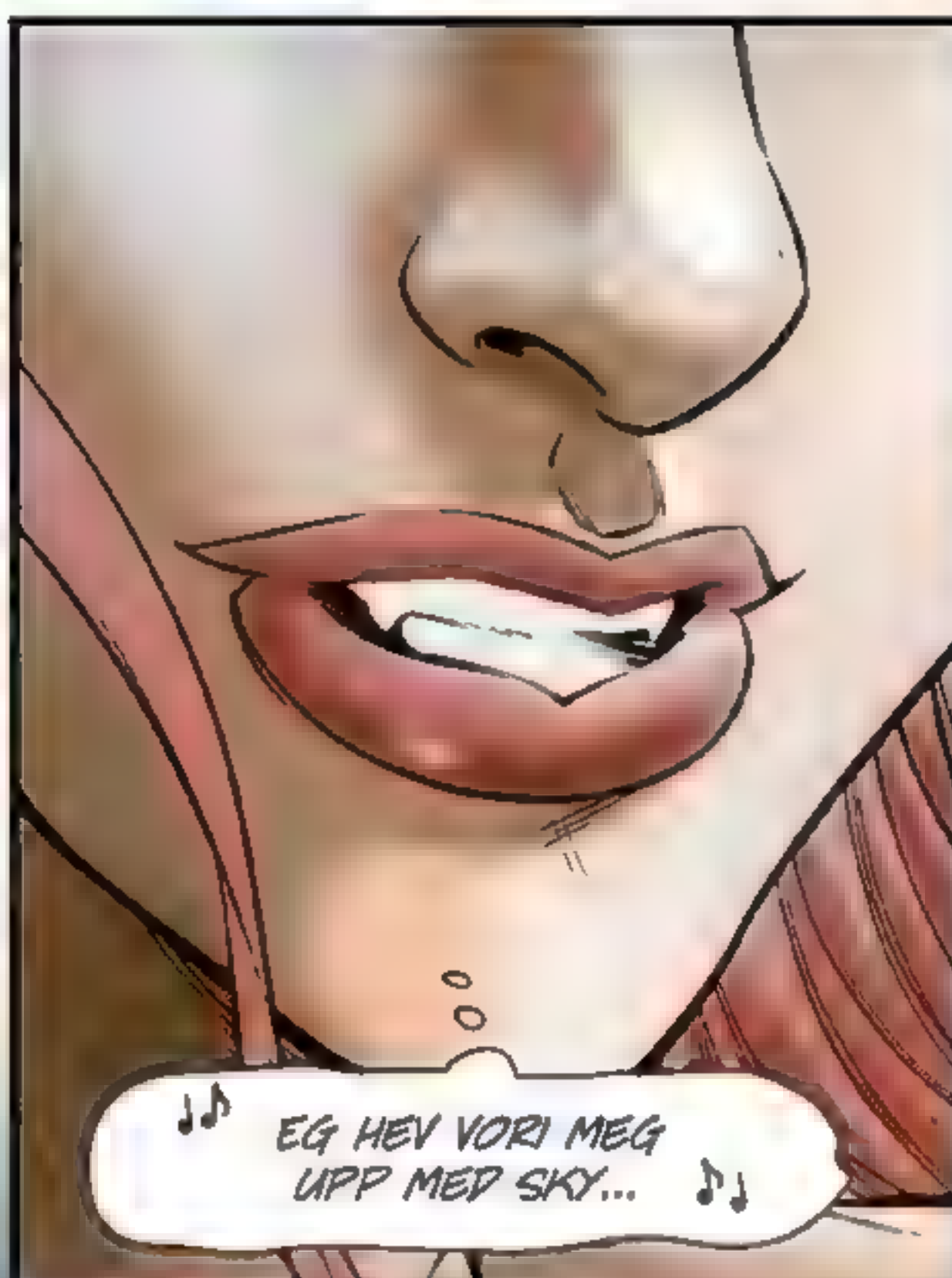
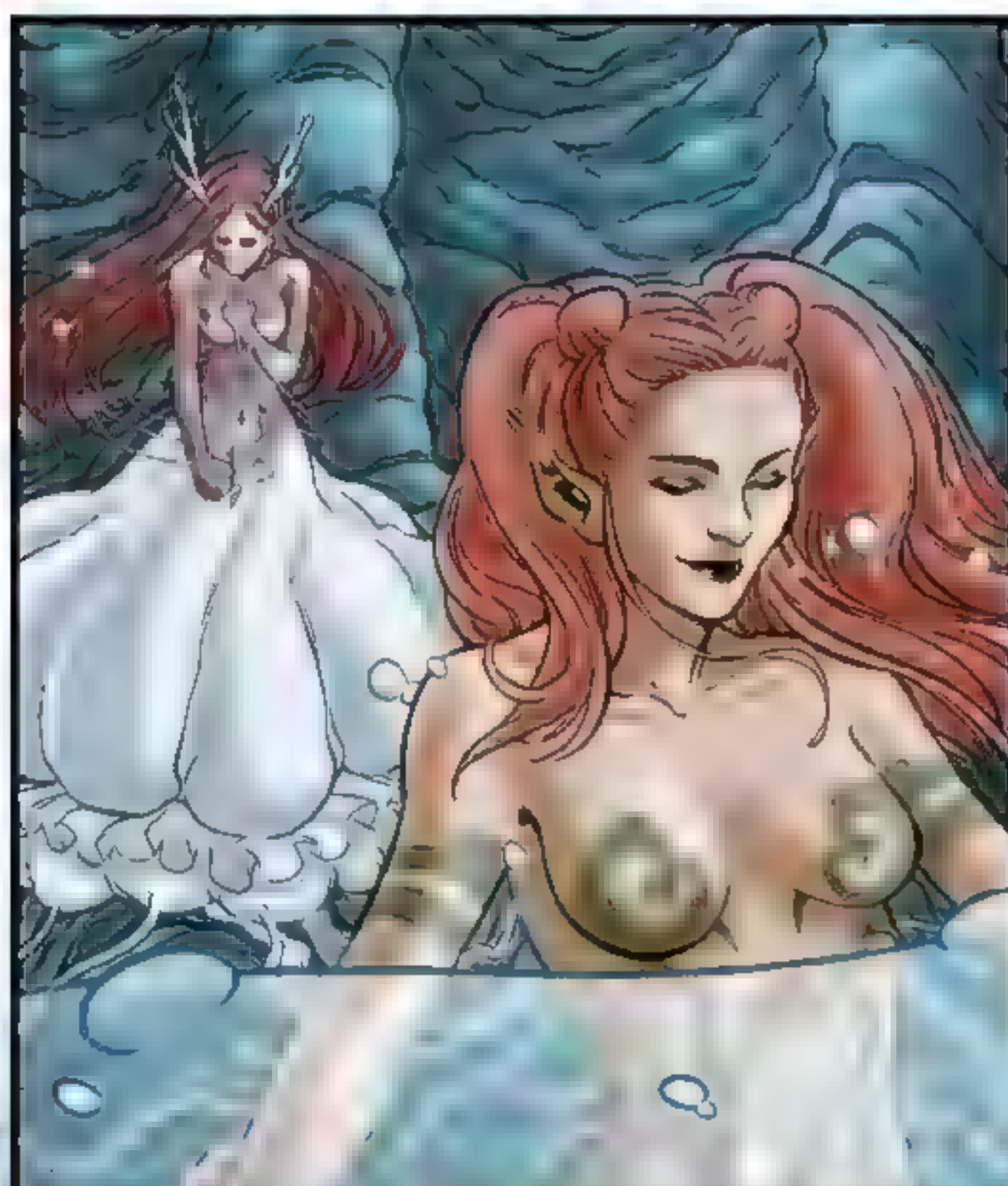
I UNDERSTAND YOUR SUFFERING, DAUGHTER. AND I ALSO BEAR THE BURDEN OF BRINGING GILDWIN INTO YOUR LIFE TO BEGIN WITH.



BUT HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THIS SACRIFICE YOU INTEND TO MAKE?



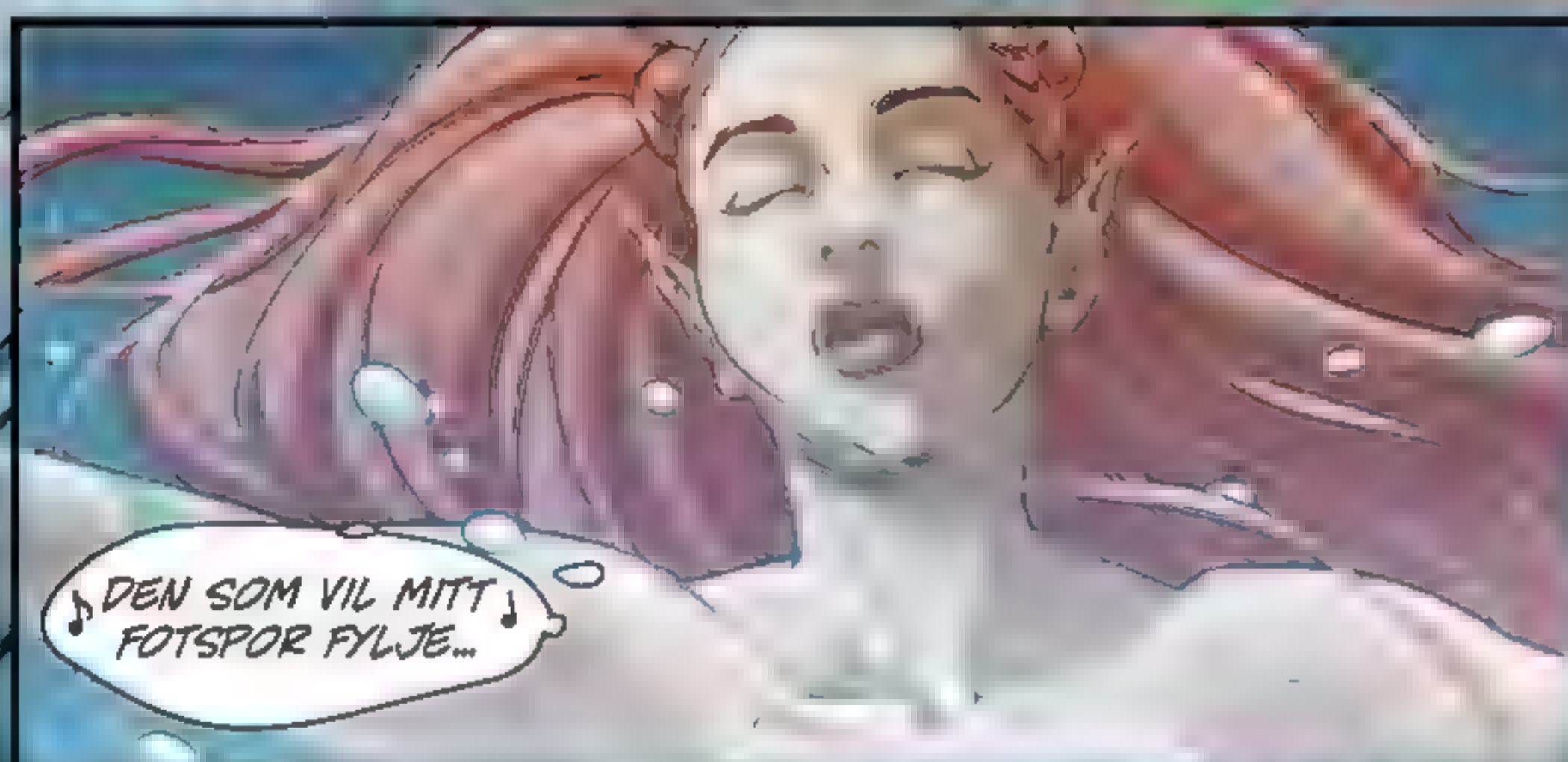
YES, MOTHER... AND NOTHING WILL MAKE ME RECONSIDER. I OWE HIM MY LIFE.



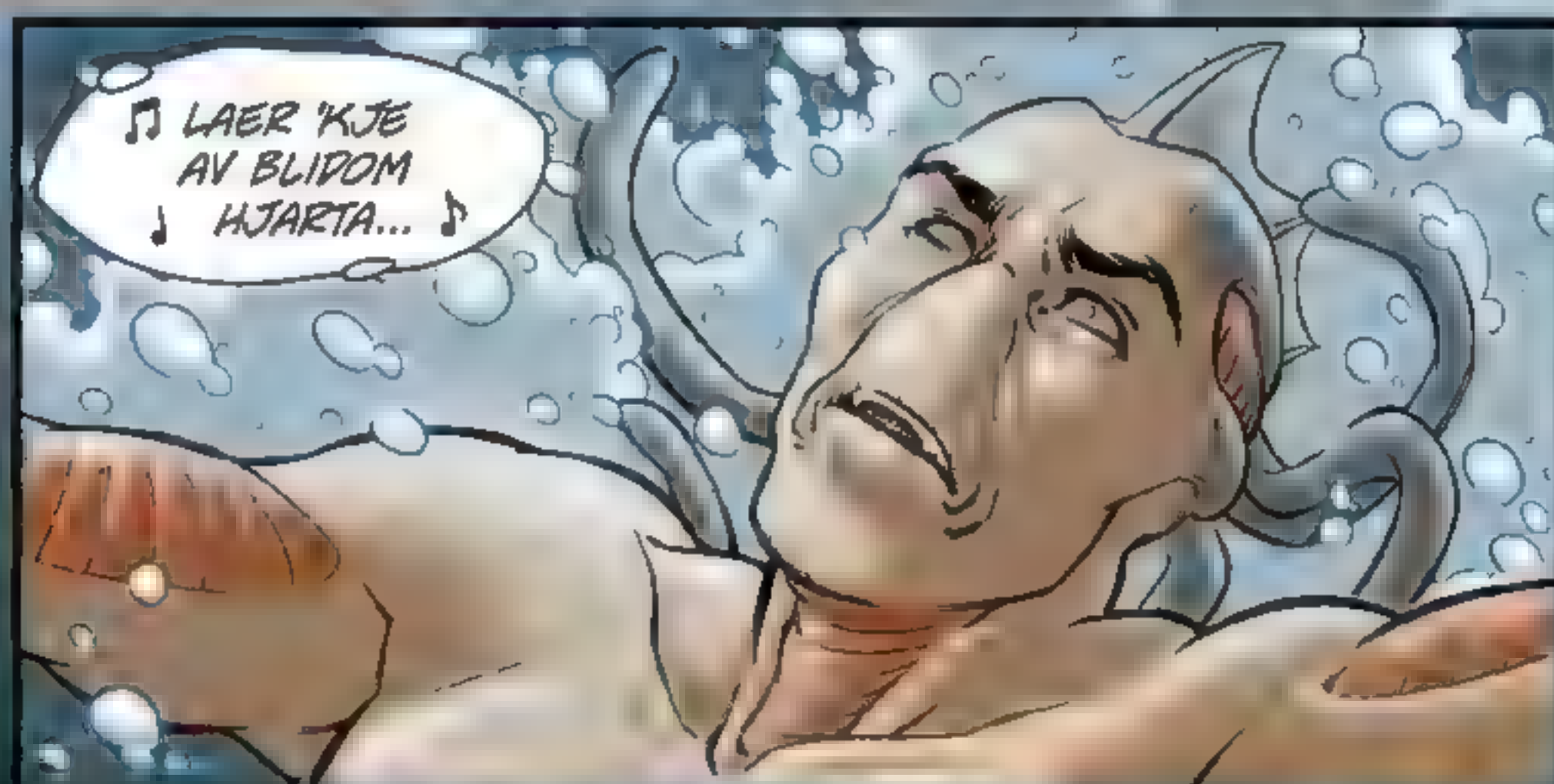
EG HEV VORI MEG UPP MED SKY...



OG NED-ATT MED HAVET SVARTE...



DEN SOM VIL MITT FOTSPOR FYLJE...



LAER 'KJE AV BLIDOM HJARTA...



BLODUGHADDA!



SHE IS...
GONE, GILDWIN.

NO. SHE HEAR
ME. TALK TO ME
BY THINKING.



BLODUGHADDA?

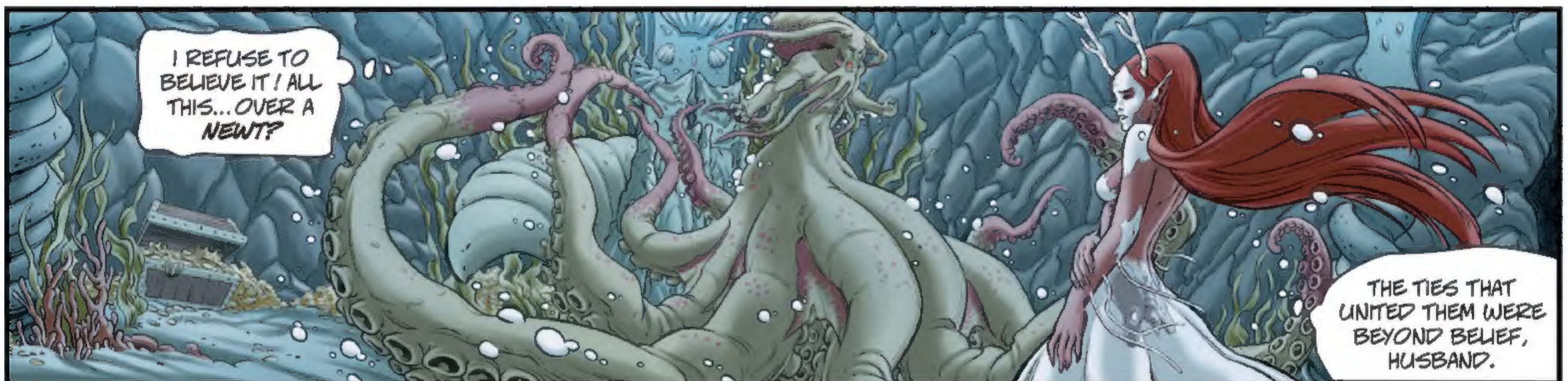
WHERE SHE'S
GONE, SHE CANNOT
HEAR YOU.



SHE SACRIFICED WHAT
SHE CHERISHED THE
MOST, TO SAVE YOU.



NOOO!

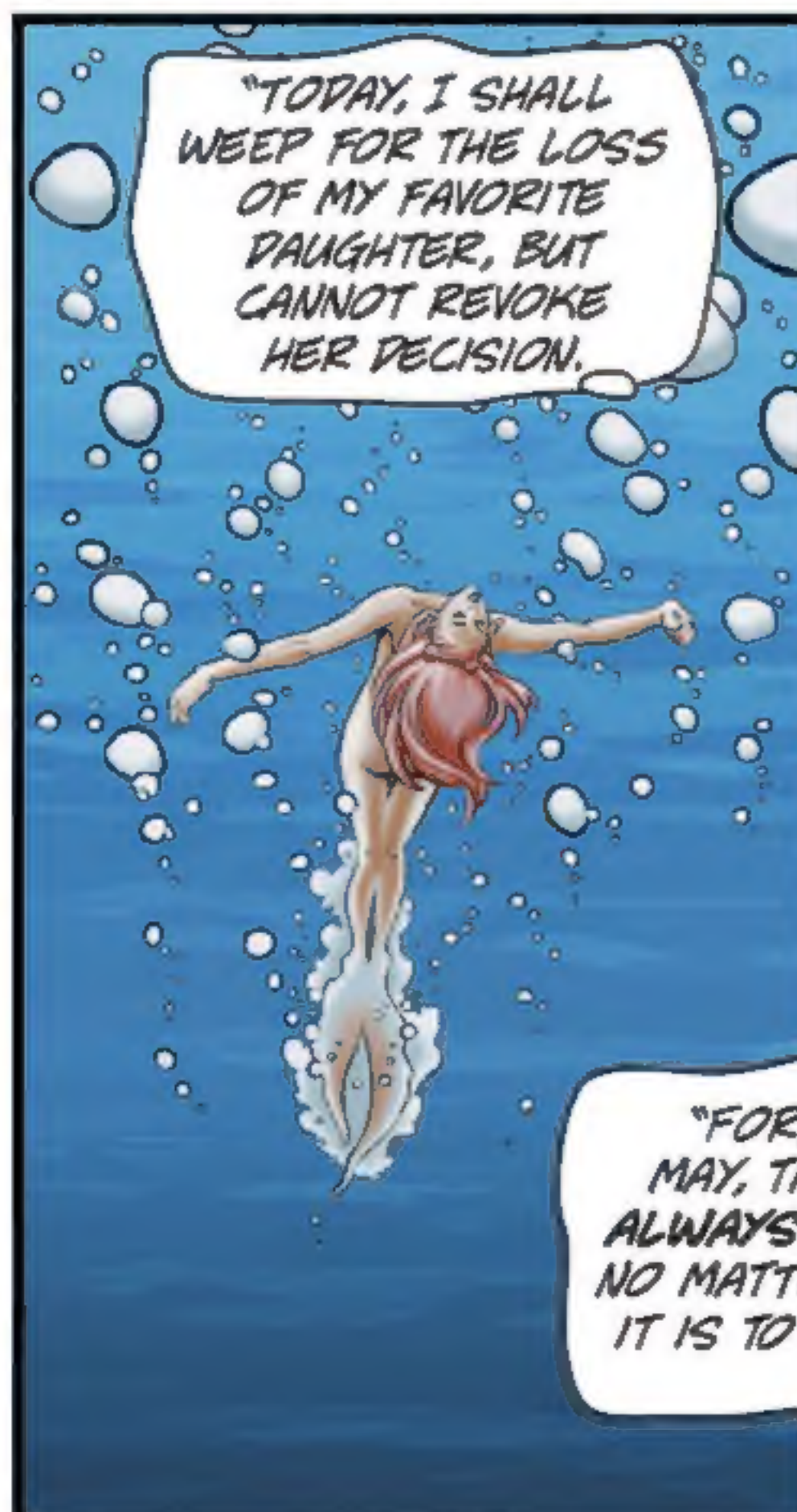


I REFUSE TO
BELIEVE IT! ALL
THIS... OVER A
NEWT?

THE TIES THAT
UNITED THEM WERE
BEYOND BELIEF,
HUSBAND.

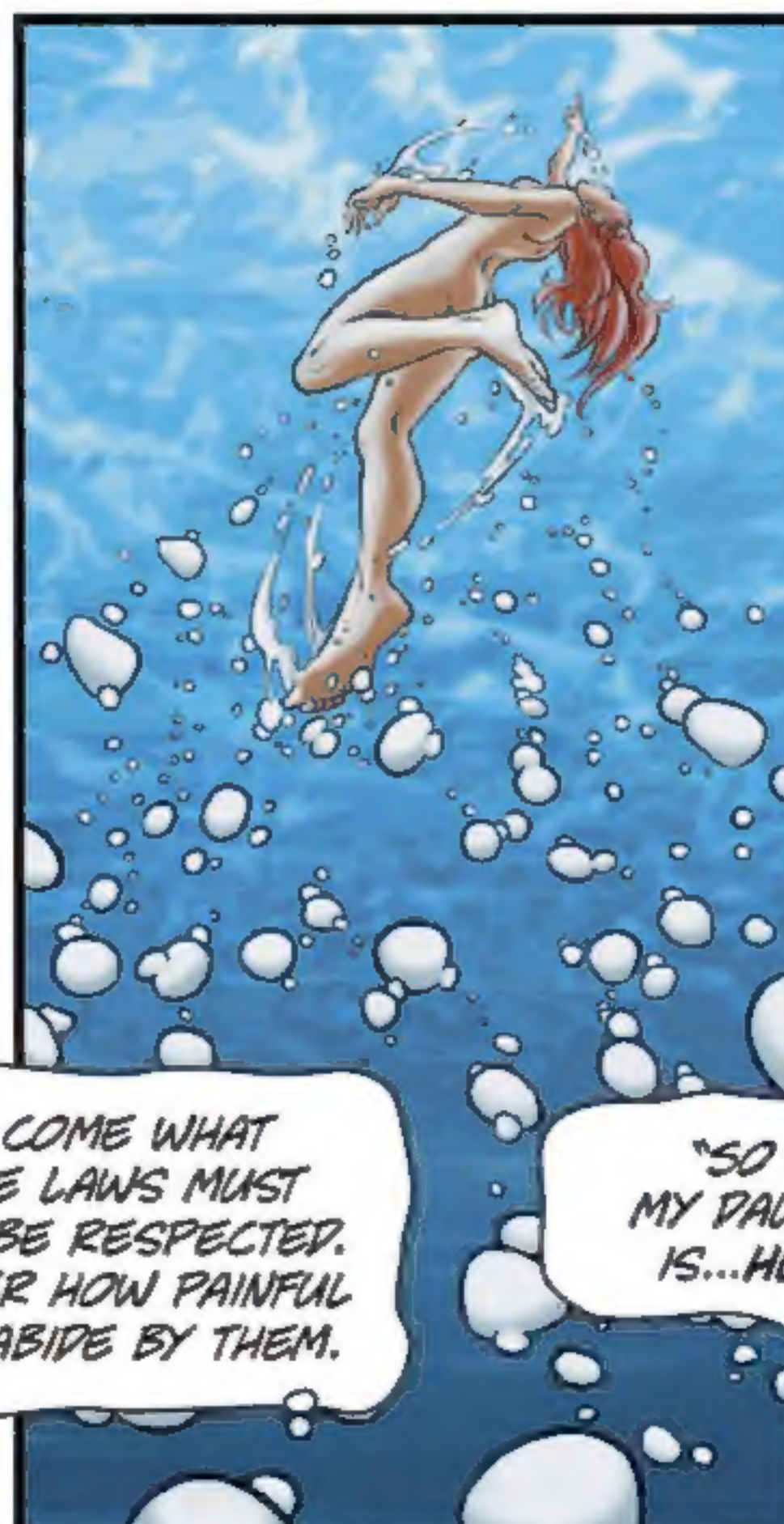


"SHE WAS BOUND FOR
GREAT THINGS AND HAD
SO MUCH TO GIVE TO
OUR PEOPLE.

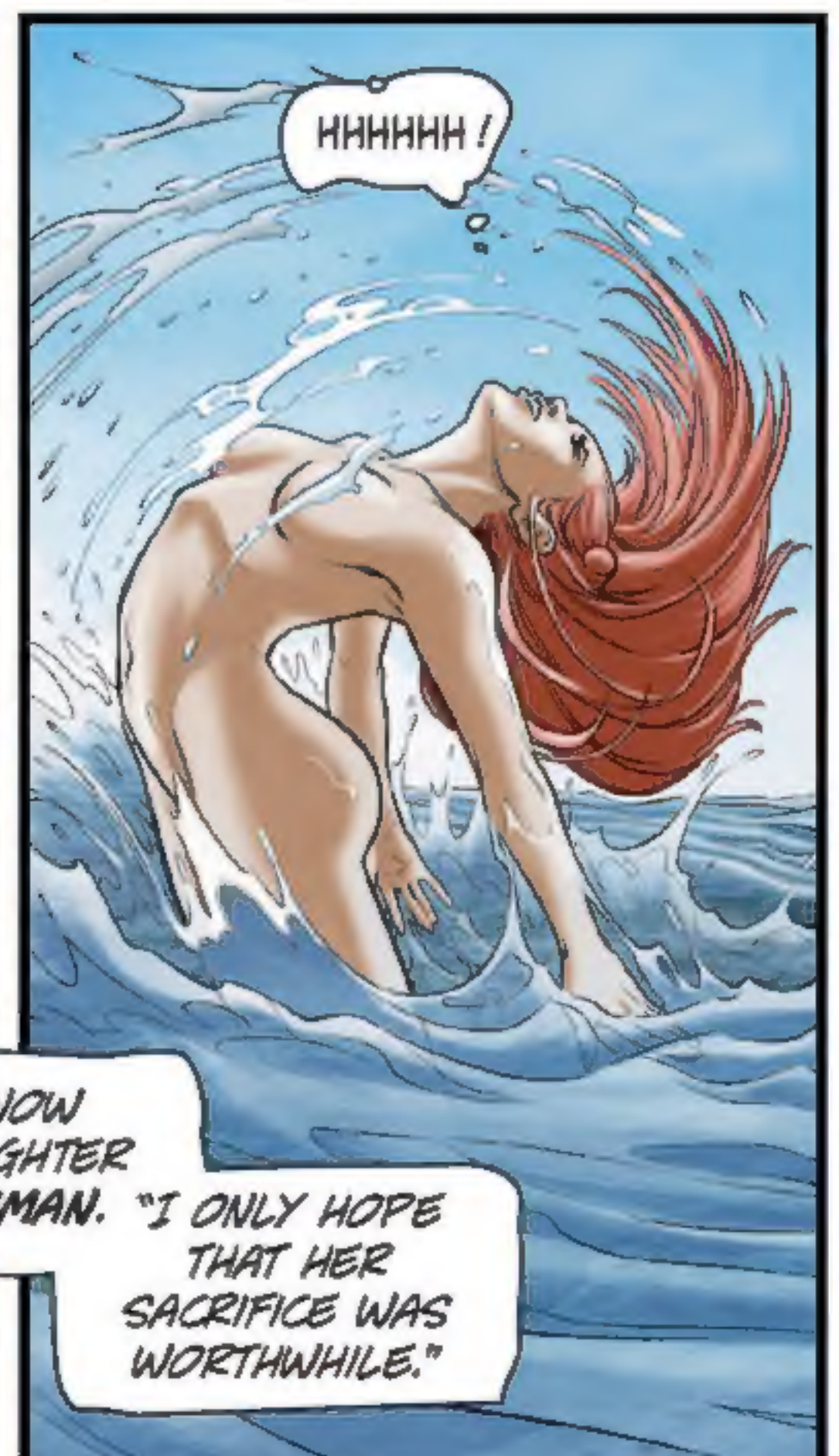


"TODAY, I SHALL
WEEP FOR THE LOSS
OF MY FAVORITE
DAUGHTER, BUT
CANNOT REVOKE
HER DECISION.

"FOR, COME WHAT
MAY, THE LAWS MUST
ALWAYS BE RESPECTED.
NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL
IT IS TO ABIDE BY THEM.



"SO NOW
MY DAUGHTER
IS... HUMAN. "I ONLY HOPE
THAT HER
SACRIFICE WAS
WORTHWHILE."



HHHHH!

SEVERAL MONTHS LATER...

I'M AFRAID FOR HIS LIFE, INGA.

I KNOW HE'S DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE REST, BUT HE'S STILL MY CHILD.

HE MAY NOT TALK LIKE US, AND HE HARDLY RECOGNIZES HIS FAMILY, BUT HE'S HARMLESS. NOT LIKE HIS FATHER, HOLGIR, THINKS...

SIGFRED'S JUST A BABY LOCKED INSIDE THE BODY OF AN OLDER CHILD.

HOLGIR IS CONVINCED THAT SOME DEMON HAS BROUGHT THIS BAD LUCK ON OUR FAMILY, SO HE PLANS TO KILL HIM TONIGHT!

I CAN'T LET HIM DO THA--

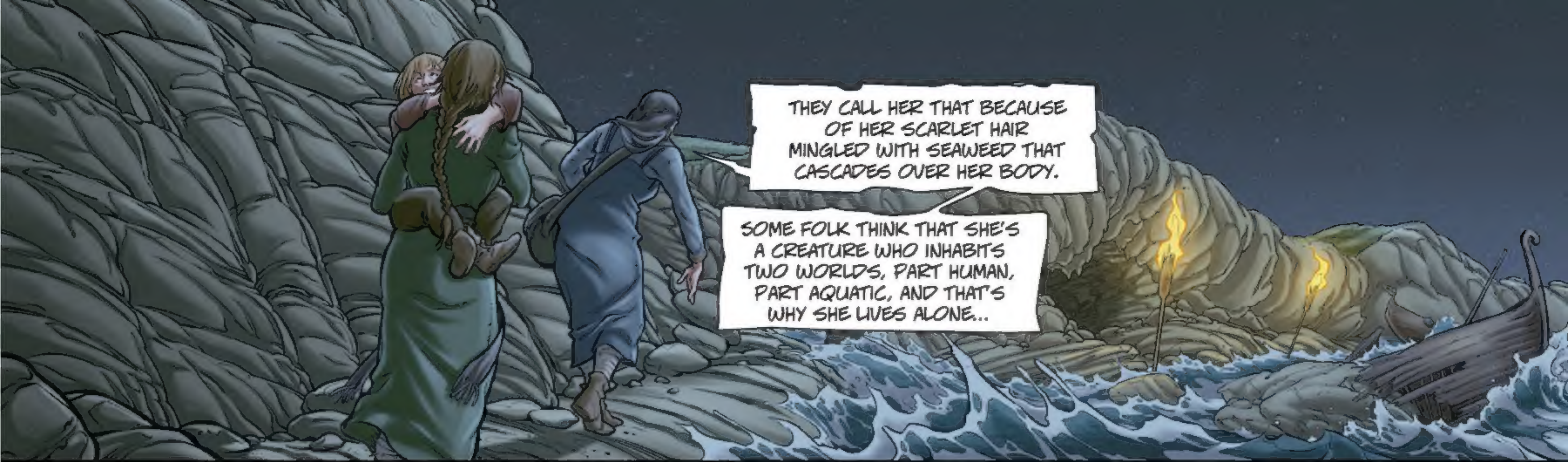
AAAAH!

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, COMING TO ME, SVANHILD. I KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO CONSULT THE RÍÐ SPÁKONA*...

*RED SOOTHSAYER.



THEY CALL HER THAT BECAUSE
OF HER SCARLET HAIR
MINGLED WITH SEAWEED THAT
CASCADES OVER HER BODY.

SOME FOLK THINK THAT SHE'S
A CREATURE WHO INHABITS
TWO WORLDS, PART HUMAN,
PART AQUATIC, AND THAT'S
WHY SHE LIVES ALONE...



...IN THIS WRECKED LONGSHIP.
WE DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT IT
JUST APPEARED AT THE FOOT
OF THE CLIFF ONE DAY.

SPÅKONA?



THIS CHILD HAS SUFFERED
FROM AN UNKNOWN
MALADY SINCE BIRTH.

CAN YOU SAVE HIM?



HHHHHH... HAVE YOU...
BROUGHT... HHH... FOOD?



I... YES. FRUIT FROM THE
ORCHARD AND SOME OATS,
LIKE YOU ASKED.



HE'S AS BIG AS
AN EIGHT-YEAR-
OLD BOY, BUT
HIS MIND...



JEG VED ET SLOT,
DETS VÆG...



ER GRØNNE BØLGER LAG PÅ LAG...



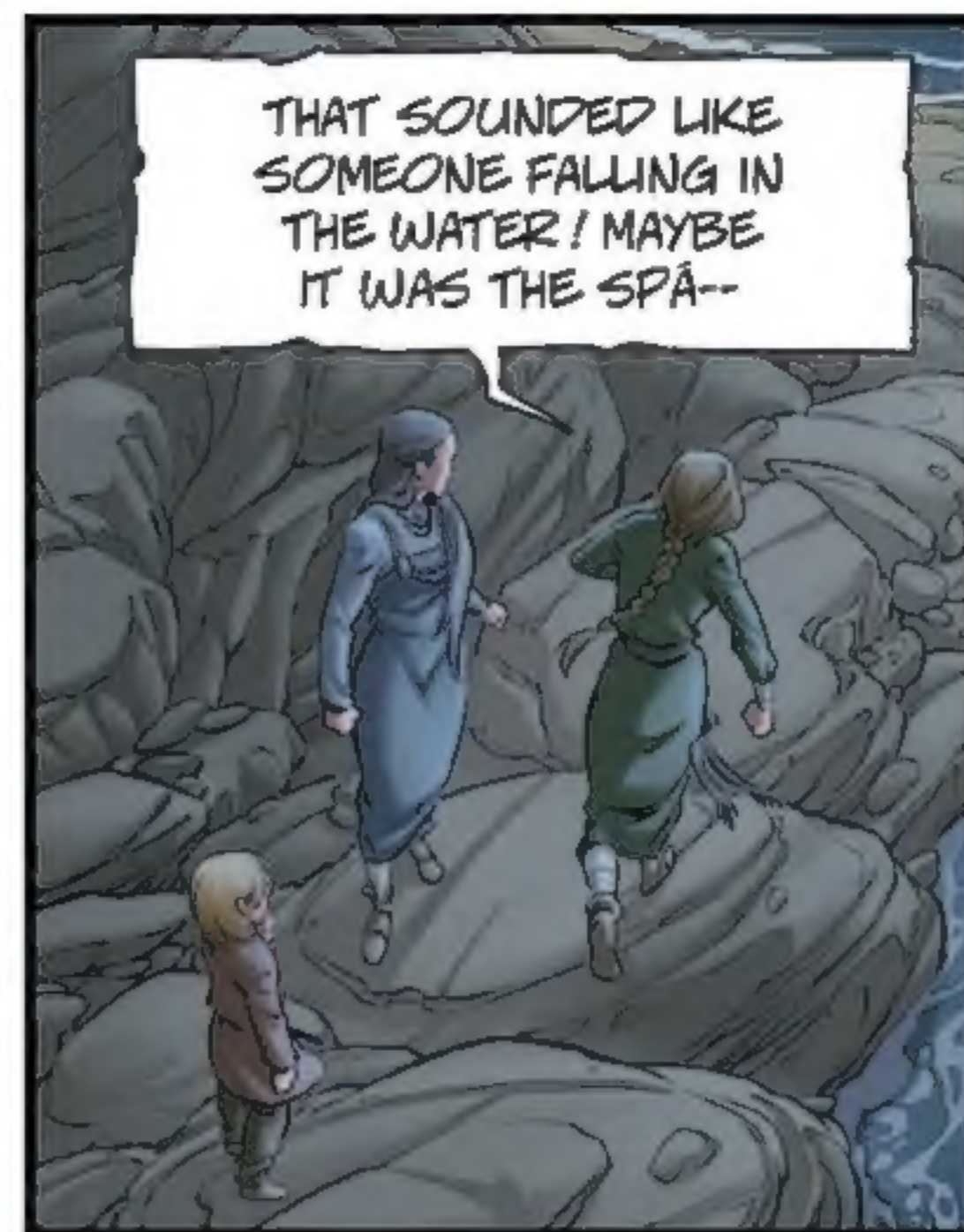
HAHAHAHA!
CATCH ME,
MOMMY!

YOU'RE... RUNNING
TOO FAST, SIGFRED!



BY FRIGG,
IT'S... IT'S
A MIRAC--

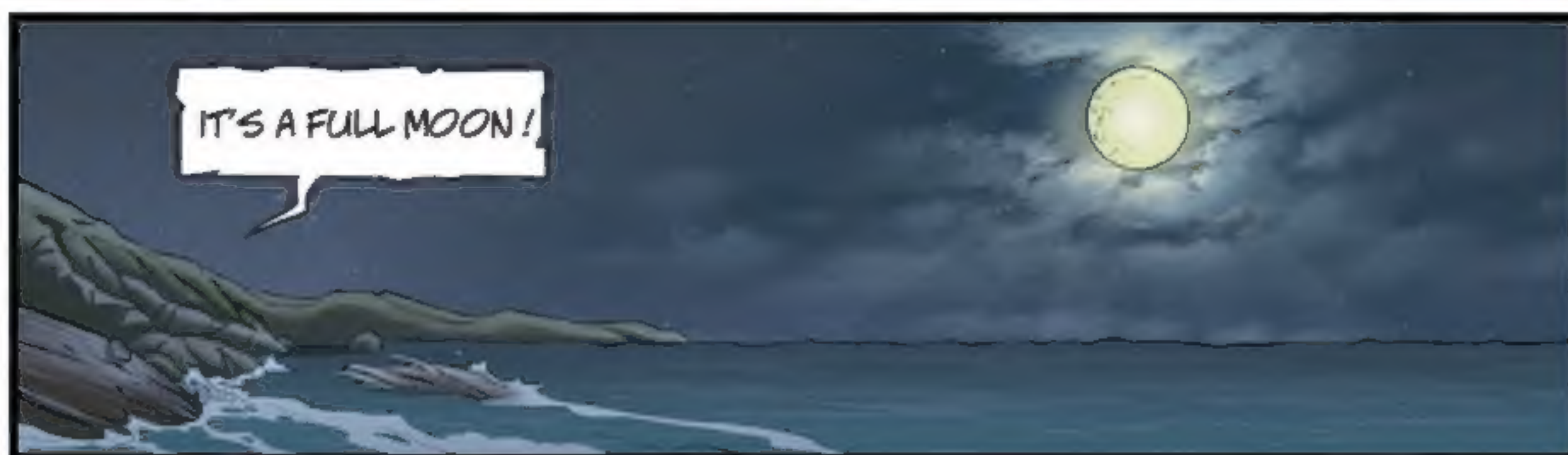
SPLASH



THAT SOUNDED LIKE
SOMEONE FALLING IN
THE WATER! MAYBE
IT WAS THE SPÄ--



NO, DON'T DO THAT!



IT'S A FULL MOON!



I... I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

THEY SAY THAT,
ON THE NIGHT OF
THE FULL MOON,
THE SPÄKONA
BATHES IN THE SEA.



"THOSE FEW AMONG US WHO
HAVE WITNESSED IT CLAIM TO
HAVE SEEN A STRANGE ANIMAL
RISING FROM THE DEPTHS...

"...TO DANCE
BESIDE HER."

END.